



**'PROTESTS  
HAVE MADE US  
LESS FEARFUL'**

Pages 10&11

**US ELECTION 8 PAGES OF NEWS AND ANALYSIS**

**Elite rallies behind  
foul president it  
created**

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**Why the vote has  
thrown our rulers  
into crisis**

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**Resistible rise  
of the  
new right**

Pages 14&15

# Socialist Worker

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## MONSTER IN THE WHITE HOUSE

# RESIST RACIST RIGHT

**BIGOT DONALD Trump hasn't just won the US presidency, he's now stuffing his administration with far right figures.**

These are hard times, but the hope comes from the protests that have flooded onto the streets. It's right to fight—it's right to tell Trump that he faces opposition.

We cannot be spectators. Everywhere rulers who are trying to make workers pay for the bosses' crisis are seeking to blame migrants and Muslims for the problems in society.

The Tories are masters of whipping up division to keep workers down.

We can't just cheer on the protests in the

US—we have to build Stand Up To Racism in Britain.

Trump's victory has also underlined the crisis of mainstream politics and the sickness of capitalism. This is a system that means poverty, racism, war and environmental catastrophe.

Trump is its grotesque product, and he has focused the horrors.

There is deep anger in society which can be grabbed by the right or by the left. Resistance to austerity and racism are more urgent than ever.



### STRIKES

**War in councils  
as workers fight  
Labour's cuts**

THREE GROUPS of workers at the Labour-run Glasgow City Council are striking back against cuts.

Meanwhile over 2,000 teaching assistants in Durham struck against the Labour council's pay cuts.

It's time Labour stood up for workers instead of pushing through cuts.

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### SOUTH KOREA



**Biggest protest  
in decades hits  
streets in Seoul**

AROUND ONE million people protested in central Seoul last Saturday.

They demanded president Park Geun-hye's resignation.

It was the largest protest since 1987, when street protests and mass strikes forced the then military dictatorship to concede basic democratic rights.

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### ENVIRONMENT

**Manchester march  
tells the Tories to  
frack off**

SOME 2,000 socialists, environmentalists and trade unionists marched in Manchester last Saturday against Tory fracking plans.

They protested against the government's overturning of local democracy to impose licences to frack for shale gas.

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**LET'S BUILD STAND UP TO RACISM HERE** Page 20



## THE THINGS THEY SAY

### 'So I am not alone'

Disgraced Sun columnist Kelvin MacKenzie reacts to Donald Trump's election

### 'Trump may be much less crazy than he sounds'

Deputy editor of The Spectator Freddy Gray on Trump

### 'If you were born here, then your parents got to go'

What one US teacher told an 11 year old Hispanic student following Trump's election

### 'There are times when I mourn the passing of the gas chamber'

An apparent North Wales Ukipper @ukiparfon responds to anti-Trump demos

### 'I keep being asked to go in and vote for things'

Andrew Lloyd Webber is fed up with the House of Lords

### 'I have never considered myself a Unionist'

Scottish Labour's deputy leader Alex Rowley says Labour should break with its "narrow" unionist ideology

### 'Either you get on board or you disappear'

Ukip leadership candidate Paul Nuttall has a sinister message for members



# Big six energy firms under fire for 'hidden' super profits

**THE MAIN** energy firms are making much bigger profits than they claim, a new report suggests.

The report was commissioned by industry body Energy UK.

It showed that the big six energy firms were making up to 24 percent profit on standard tariffs, according to the Sun newspaper.

For some, that's over seven times bigger than the profits they claim to be making.

The big six are British Gas, E-on, EDF, SSE, Scottish Power and NPower.

The report found that the costs for supplying a typical family with energy in 2016/17 was £844.

But most households with one of the big six are on standard variable tariffs, paying as much as £1,172 a year.

This would leave a profit of £272 after VAT—or 24 percent.

Energy UK in June accepted the claim that typical profits for the big six was 3.3 percent.

The gap between claimed profits and the alleged higher ones varied.

Npower had the highest gap, with its real profits 7.4 times bigger than the profit it claimed to make.

Scottish Power's real profit was 7.2 times bigger, while SSE's was 6.9 times bigger.

Energy UK claimed the figures were misleading. It is keen to paint the energy suppliers in a good light.

In September 2014 it created an energy "news programme" alongside ITN to make sure the sector was "being understood as it should".

ENERGY FIRMS' profits are hotting up

**A TRIAL** of driverless trains ended in disaster on the Delhi Metro earlier this month.

Two of the trains, which are fitted with "anti-collision technology", collided with each other.

Happily they are set to be fully operational by the middle of next year.

Former London mayor Boris Johnson wanted to introduce them in the capital.



The collision in Delhi, India

**SPIT HOODS** are being used by 17 out of 49 police forces in Britain. A further four are considering introducing them.

The inhumane hoods, which are placed over suspects' heads, have been used almost 2,500 times since 2011. More than 600 of these were on people with "suspected mental health issues".

## Percy is denounced as 'Poldark on pies'

TORY MP Andrew Percy will not be starring in a BBC drama anytime soon.

The "Northern Powerhouse" minister called on TV makers this week to produce more programmes in Yorkshire and the Pennines.

"Popular TV programmes help to showcase regions of the country, like Poldark has done for the Cornish coast," he said.

Colleagues urged him to make his own bid for a glittering role, but he quickly ruled himself out, saying, "I'm not sure I quite

have the body for it."

A group of female Tory MPs chatting on Whatsapp were more unkind. One said, "It would be like Poldark on pies."

**THE DEPARTMENT** for Work and Pensions is considering forcing all sick and disabled people on benefits to take part in "mandatory" activity.

The change would include those who are terminally ill and have the most severe conditions. It would hit those who don't currently take part in any work-related activity.



Tory MP Andrew Percy?

## Trouble for Tories over housing policy

**THE TORIES** are in a mess over housing.

The working group for the Pay to Stay part of their Housing and Planning Act has cancelled its meetings without reason.

Pay to Stay would force council tenants to pay up to market rent, depending on their wages.

Local authorities say the policy is unworkable by the April 2017 deadline.

The Tories also want to charge councils a levy based

on the value of their "higher value housing".

But this is likely to be delayed as well, housing minister Gavin Barwell admitted last week.

He described it as "quite controversial".

A senior civil servant has said the voluntary right to buy policy will also be delayed.

**NEW SCHOOLS** will no longer have to install sprinkler systems, thanks to the Tories.

The FBU union said sprinklers had saved 17 schools from severe fire damage in less than a decade.



Gavin Barwell

## Scots Tories love up to Israeli state

SCOTTISH TORY leader Ruth Davidson is in hot water after visiting an illegal Israeli settlement in the occupied Golan Heights grabbed from Syria.

Davidson was part of a group of ten Scottish Tories, including nine MSPs, who visited the settlement in August.

Syrian human rights group Al-Marsad is "highly concerned" that the visit could indicate that the Scottish Tories endorse illegal settlements.

Tory MSP Jackson Carlaw plans a cross-party group called Building Bridges with Israel.



## FAT CAT OF THE WEEK

No. 666

**Nigel Farage**  
Millionaire ex-banker

● Leader of the hard right Ukip Nigel Farage has promised to lead a 100,000-strong protest over Brexit next month

● Interestingly, Farage has only ever persuaded 36,580 people to vote for him in seven attempts to win a parliamentary seat

● He failed every time

## Rudd ignored evidence over Orgreave

HOME secretary Amber Rudd decided against an inquiry into Orgreave without looking at all the evidence.

Police attacked striking miners during the Battle of Orgreave in June 1984, then framed several miners for riot.

South Yorkshire Police did not send its extensive materials on Orgreave to Rudd.

She did not approach the Independent Police Complaints Commission for the evidence it holds either.

Sign the petition demanding an inquiry into Orgreave at [bit.ly/2fRqkMV](http://bit.ly/2fRqkMV)

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Socialist Worker  
PO Box 71327  
London  
SE11 9BW



# US elite rallies behind the foul president it created

by TOMÁŠ TENGELY-EVANS

**A RACIST, sexist thug and billionaire will be the next leader of the world's foremost imperialist power.**

Donald Trump successfully posed as the “anti-establishment” candidate. But he is part and parcel of the US ruling class, and has been putting together a team to ramp up attacks on the working class.

Trump has threatened policies that undermine the rights of Muslims, migrants, LGBT+ people and women.

Since the election he has vowed to launch a new crackdown on illegal migrants as soon as he takes office on 20 January 2017.

Trump's transition team, which will help make cabinet appointments and fill over 1,000 senior government posts, is stuffed with racists and family members.

## Swamp

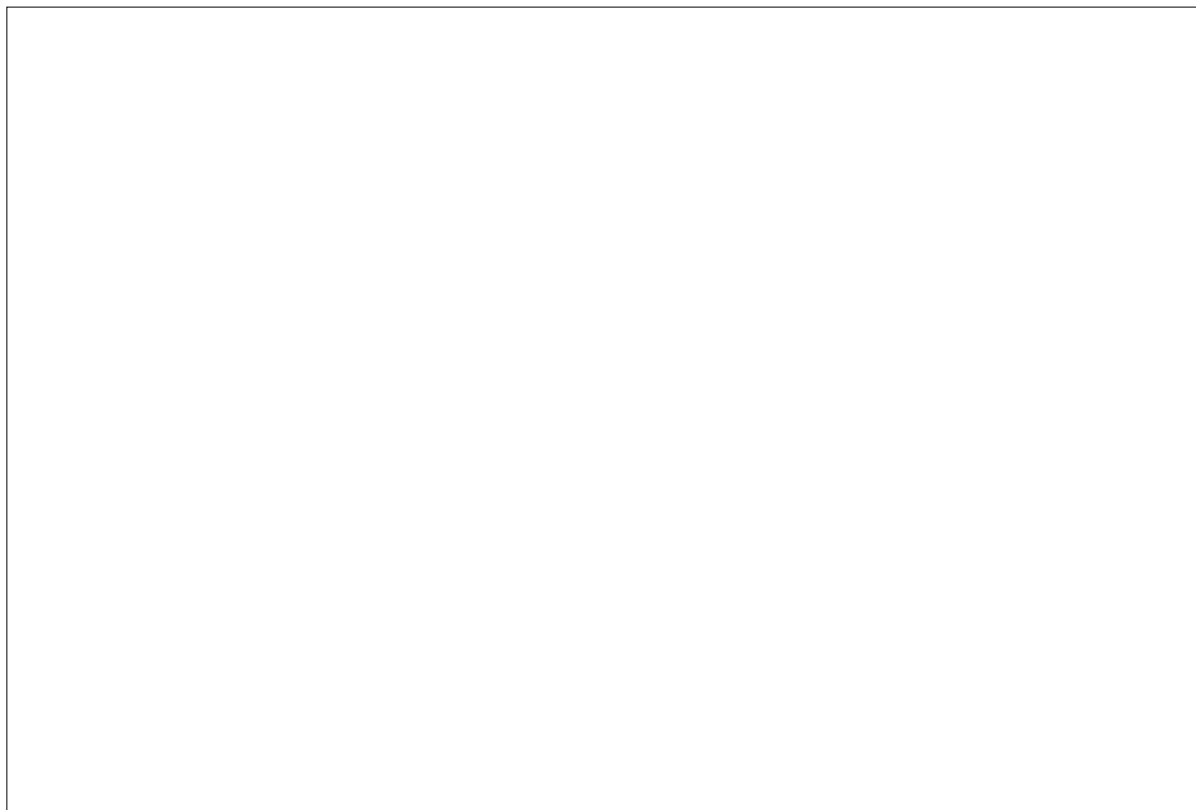
Former Goldman Sachs investment banker and media tycoon Stephen Bannon is the chief strategist and senior counsellor. He runs the white nationalist Breitbart News website—a swamp of antisemites and Islamophobes.

The chief of staff is Reince Priebus who tried to rally the Republican Party machine behind Trump. He led the smashing of public sector trade unions' collective bargaining rights in Wisconsin in 2013.

It is no wonder that far right politicians across Europe cheered Trump's win. Marine Le Pen, leader of the fascist Front National (FN) in France, said it was “an additional stone in the building of a new world order”.

Beppe Grillo of the populist Five Star Movement in Italy hailed a triumph of the “failures and misfits”.

He thundered, “Those who dare, the stubborn, the barbarians will carry the world forward, and we are



**BARACK OBAMA** (right) deported 2.5 million migrants—**Donald Trump** (left) pledged three million

## PROTEST AGAINST TRUMP'S RACISM

**20 January 2017**

**Stand Up To Racism has called a protest at the US embassy on the day of Trump's inauguration**

● Friday 20 January, 6pm, 24 Grosvenor Square, London W1A

● It follows anti-Trump protests in the US (see pages 10&11) and Britain (see page 19) last week

● Go to [standuptoracism.org.uk](http://standuptoracism.org.uk)

the barbarians.”

Jamie Dimon, CEO of top investment bank JP Morgan, has been approached to be treasury secretary.

Throughout the campaign, Trump attacked “banker-bashing” and said he would repeal the tame Dodd Frank Act for Wall Street Reform that was passed after the financial crash.

## Environment

Climate change denier Sarah Palin is being brought in from the cold to serve as interior secretary, putting her in charge of the environment.

But these two appointments also point to the problems facing a Trump presidency. He is seeking to balance

between the right wing populism that got him elected and the bosses who largely backed his rival Hillary Clinton.

Establishment politicians who previously railed against Trump are now trying to rally around him to “heal the wounds” of a “divided nation”.

Just as “lesser evil” Clinton failed to keep Trump out of the White House, those politics aren't enough to oppose him now.

That will take struggles against neoliberalism and racism that can resist his attacks. They can also help forge a socialist alternative and channel anger away from Trump's reactionary politics of despair.

## PRISONS

### Walkout in jails over ‘dangers’

PRISON OFFICERS walked out of prisons in England and Wales on Tuesday morning.

The Prison Officers Association (POA) says 10,000 took part in industrial action.

The POA, which is legally restricted from striking, said the day of protest would be “interpreted as a strike”.

It comes after talks with the government over staffing levels broke down.

According to the union, “The POA has consistently raised the volatile and dangerous state of prisons.”

Dave Todd, POA representative for London, Kent, Surrey and Sussex, said conditions in prisons were “volatile and dangerous”.

“We need to act to protect ourselves,” he said.

“Last month Lewes prison had a riot, Bedford prison had a riot, and assaults are at an all-time high.

“There's mobile phones and drugs in prisons.”

## Injunct

Todd added, “The Ministry of Justice will call it a strike, they will injunct through the courts.”

The Tories did indeed describe the action as unjustified and “unlawful”—and threatened to go to the courts.

Every trade unionist should oppose the repeated use of the law against the prison officers.

But it should be remembered that the victims of the prison system and its conditions are the prisoners.

Improving jail conditions means fewer prisoners, not more officers.

## SOCIALIST WORKER APPEAL TO RAISE £125,000

The appeal has now reached £92,889 so we are well on track to reach our target of £125,000. Please help us get there by making a donation, organising a fundraising event, or doing a collection among your readers.

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“Victories for workers – when in dispute with their own companies – often go unmentioned in the mainstream media.

“This is why an independently funded

media is so important in giving confidence to workers everywhere.”

**Liam Stevenson,**  
Grangemouth tanker driver and Unite member (pc)



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Call 020 7840 5620 or send a cheque, payable to ‘SW Appeal’ to PO Box 71327, London SE11 9BW

## IN THIS WEEK

**1989**

### Velvet Revolution in Czechoslovakia

RIOT POLICE attacked a student demonstration on 17 November, sparking mass protests.

It was part of a wave of revolution that tore down Eastern Europe's Stalinist regimes.

Go to [bit.ly/2gbISZy](http://bit.ly/2gbISZy) for more on 1989





# How did this bigot get in—and who is to blame?

Charlie Kimber gives five reasons why the unthinkable happened—and why we should take action

**DONALD TRUMP'S** election as US president horrified the world. The victory of such a vile candidate was thought to be unthinkable.

It has led to despair and belief that the US has swung sharply to the right or that white workers are irredeemably racist and sexist.

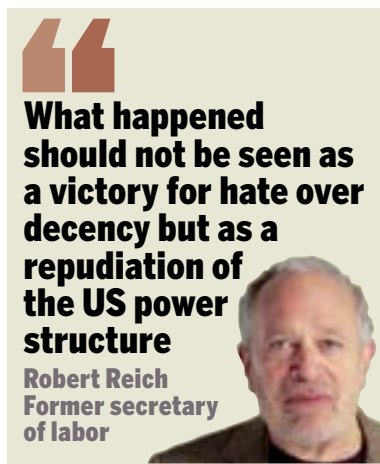
Racism and sexism certainly motivated some voters, including the Republicans' core base. But the roots of Trump's win are in bitter anger, hatred of the political and corporate establishment, betrayals by the Barack Obama administration and a desperation for change.

## ① It wasn't a surge but a collapse

**HILLARY CLINTON** received about ten million fewer votes than Barack Obama did eight years ago and five million fewer than Obama four years ago.

Donald Trump received fewer votes overall than Clinton, but won in the electoral college. This gives some states a larger say in the outcome than their population size.

Trump received the fewest votes of any candidate since 2000—even



though there are 18 million more eligible voters than in 2008.

His vote total was less than that won by Republicans Mitt Romney in 2012 and George W. Bush in 2004, and only just more than John McCain in 2008.

Almost 100 million eligible voters abstained at the 2016 election or voted for a third party.

This is a measure of discontent with the system, not apathy. While Clinton and Trump received the vote of 27 and 26 percent of eligible voters, the rest chose neither.

AN UNEMPLOYMENT queue in Michigan, a state Trump gained in the Democrats' "Rust Belt" heartland



A food bank in Michigan

## ③ It was not just a racist 'Whitelash'

**AS A** percentage of votes cast, all racial groups swung toward the Republican candidate in 2016 compared to 2012.

White voters showed the lowest swing (1 percentage point), compared with African-Americans (2 points), Latinos (3 points), and Asian-Americans (7 points).

Trump won the votes of people who previously backed Barack Obama—hardly a sign of deep racism. But Obama let people down.

Even his health care reforms proved largely empty. Workers got huge increases in their Obamacare premiums on the eve of the voting.

## FIGURE IT OUT

In the northern industrial state of Minnesota, whites without a college degree made up

**44%** of the electorate—down from 53 percent in 2012

**55%** of them voted for Trump—up from 46 percent who backed Mitt Romney in 2012

**38%** voted for Clinton—down from the 52 percent who voted for Obama in 2012

## ④ Clinton offered workers no change

**THERE IS** deep and bitter anger among working class people in the US. The era of the richest 1 percent stuffing their pockets has left its mark.

Exit polls showed 53 percent of urban respondents, 63 percent of suburban and 71 percent of rural respondents said they believed the economy was on the wrong track.

An ABC News exit poll asked people what qualities they looked for in a candidate. The biggest factor (38 percent) said it was someone who can "bring about needed change". Among Trump voters, it was nearly all about change.

Clinton was the candidate of the status quo at a time of boiling anger against the status quo.

Millions of people aged between 45 and 55 voted for Trump this time who had voted Democrat before. This is the generation whose working lives began during the 1970s.

Real hourly wages are no higher than they were in 1972.

Their jobs are often less secure or gone, they're worried about their children's future and their union has been defeated or too often doesn't stand up for them.

One hugely comprehensive US

# Tories and Ukip jostle to be Trump's special relationship

by SADIE ROBINSON

THE **TORIES** are rowing about how to respond to Donald Trump's election as US president.

Loathsome Ukip leader Nigel Farage met Trump last weekend—the first foreign leader of a political party to do so, and the first British politician.

The meeting almost didn't happen due to mass anti-Trump protests causing a lockdown of Trump Tower.

It followed Trump's "snub" to Tory leader Theresa May, when he contacted nine other politicians before speaking to her.

Some Tories want Theresa May to use Farage's links with Trump to help safeguard Britain's relationship with the US. One "senior Whitehall source" told the Daily Mail newspaper, "It would be churlish to rubbish him completely."

Farage wrote in the Daily Telegraph newspaper, "If the president-elect trusts me then I would hope

that some in the British government could do the same thing."

He said many in the government had been "unrelentingly negative" about Trump and suggested he would "help" if needed.

Others in the Tory party want nothing to do with Farage. Crispin Blunt MP, chair of the foreign affairs select committee, said, "There's no need for Nigel."

A Downing Street "source" said, "We are not using Nigel

Farage as a go-between. We have an active and very good relationship with the Republicans."

Meanwhile Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn said Trump's victory was an "unmistakeable rejection of a political establishment and an economic system that simply isn't working for most people".

He said, "Some of Trump's answers to the big questions facing America, and the divisive rhetoric around them, are clearly wrong."

health study last year found that, "Every age and ethnic/racial grouping has continued to see a steady reduction of morbidity (disease) and increase in lifespans for decades.

"But there's one major exception: middle aged (45-54) white people."

The difference was 488,050 extra deaths between 1998 and 2014. The reason is "drug and alcohol poisonings, suicide and chronic liver disease".

In ravaged working class areas you could not put up a worse candidate than Clinton who, Glenn Greenwald wrote, has been "pigishly running around to Wall Street banks and major corporations cashing in with \$250,000 fees for 45-minute secret speeches".

Trade unionists voted for Clinton, but quite narrowly.

In 2012 the vote was 58 to 40 for Obama, this time it was 51 to 43 for Clinton.



Bernie Sanders attacked the elite—but then backed Clinton

## ⑤ Sanders could have succeeded

**OHIO AND** Iowa went by huge margins for Trump—almost ten points in Iowa and nine in Ohio. Trump won Wisconsin and Pennsylvania and Michigan by less than a point.

These are all states that went for Democrats in six straight presidential elections—and might have been won by Bernie Sanders.

When he ran against Clinton as a democrat socialist to be the Democrat candidate, Sanders nearly succeeded.

He brought enthusiastic crowds and won 13 million votes.

He was stopped largely because of the power of the Democrat establishment who wanted a "safe" candidate. This was disastrous.

Frederik deBoer, an academic, wrote in the Washington Post, "Nationally, Sanders' favorability rating is more than ten points higher than Clinton's, and his unfavourability is more than 15 points lower.

"This popularity would have been a real asset on the campaign trail."

**Socialist Worker**  
WHAT WE THINK

# DON'T DESPAIR—WE CAN RESIST THE RACIST RIGHT

**A**FTER THE disastrous election of Donald Trump in the US, black people, migrants, LGBT+ people and Muslims fear an increase in racism and attacks. Women's rights could be weakened.

The rich will get tax cuts and bosses will be given more power.

Many on the left feel under siege. It seems further evidence that the right is on the rise.

Trump's success follows the vote to leave the European Union (EU) in Britain earlier this year, after a disgustingly racist official Leave and Remain campaigns.

## Winning

Some conclude that winning radical change is now impossible and that ordinary people have been won fully to right wing ideas. But the picture is more complicated.

For instance, many people in Britain believe that immigration is a "problem". But 50,000 people joined a protest in London last year to demand refugees be let in.

The Labour Party has soared to its highest ever membership under left wing leader Jeremy Corbyn.

We were told that Corbyn

could never be elected leader because people are too right wing. In reality people want an alternative to mainstream politicians who have failed them.

The Leave vote was a huge rejection of the establishment, which had demanded people vote Remain, and of the bosses' EU.

The election of Trump, who lied he was an outsider and against the elite, was another sign of disillusion with the system.

Our rulers paint working class people as more reactionary than other sections of society. But racism, sexism and homophobia are fostered by those at the top who want workers divided.

Blaming workers covers up

**“**  
**Socialists' job is to fight against racism—and for struggle that can break divisions**  
**”**

action for the NHS on Saturday 26 November to do that.

The Labour leader called on "every Constituency Labour Party" to be "out in their community campaigning to defend our NHS".

This has to be the beginning of a serious national campaign, not a one-off day of action.

It's positive that Corbyn is making a big push around this.

"I want the CLP officers, the councillors, trade unionists and other activists, to work together to get as many of our members

our rulers' role. For instance, politicians claim they must listen to people's "concerns" over immigration—having spent decades encouraging such ideas.

The worst reaction to Trump's election is to peddle more of the myths that blame migrants for problems in society. Yet this is what some in Labour and the unions want to do.

## Dominant

The revolutionary Karl Marx explained how ruling class ideas are the dominant ones.

But he also described how experience pushes workers to unite and overcome them.

The clash between ideology and experience means people can hold contradictory ideas. The job of socialists is not to dismiss people because of this.

It is to fight to win them to an anti-racist position—and to push for the struggles that can break down divisions.

Building Stand Up To Racism is even more crucial now.

We need an implacable fight against racism alongside class politics that can offer hope and an alternative to capitalist crisis—and a fight for socialism.

# ACT FOR NHS ON 26 NOV

**T**HE **TORIES** are ramping up their plans to break up and privatise the NHS.

Their vision was laid bare when Virgin Care was handed one of the most lucrative NHS and social care contracts ever, worth £700 million, last week (see page 6).

But impressive local health campaigns show that defending the NHS could become a nationwide focal point for resistance.

We must seize Jeremy Corbyn's call for a national day of

out on the streets," he said. This must not be just a publicity stunt.

Labour leading big campaigns and looking out would not only bolster Corbyn—though it would do that. Mobilising outside parliament is how to win on these issues.

It will take mass protests and hard-hitting strikes by health workers to defend the NHS.

Corbyn's call should boost trade unionists to push their leaders into the sort of action that can beat back the Tories' assault.



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## ANALYSIS

ALEX CALLINICOS



## Left must shape the revolt against elites

**FIRST BREXIT and now Donald Trump. There's a pattern here that we must try to understand. Of course it's disgusting that a racist, sexist tycoon has won the US presidency—but something bigger is happening.**

Britain and the US were the two advanced capitalist societies that pioneered neoliberalism in the 1980s. In both countries we are now seeing the cumulative effects of over 35 years of globalised free market capitalism.

We've seen a kind of involution of the political system. On the one hand, a corporate elite deeply wedded to neoliberalism has come to dominate politics, whatever party is in office. On the other hand, growing numbers of poorer people have become more and more distant from mainstream politics. But, because they still have votes, their bitterness and anger can have explosive political effects.

It was Trump himself who highlighted the parallels between his presidential campaign and Brexit. In the referendum on 23 June, all the establishment's forces were mobilised to keep Britain in the European Union (EU).

The EU has become an engine driving neoliberalism deep into European society, allowing the City of London remodelled under Margaret Thatcher to flourish.

But the big-business Remainers failed—and deservedly so. And all the analyses of the result show that the poorer you are, the more likely you were to vote Leave.

Again, in the US presidential election, the establishment rallied behind Hillary Clinton. They weren't necessarily very enthusiastic about Clinton, but they preferred her to Trump. He was deserted by the Republican leadership.

The stance taken by US big business was rational. Trump campaigned against the liberal capitalist international order that US imperialism has constructed and maintained since the Second World War.

He denounced the various rounds of trade liberalisation that he held responsible for the decline of US basic industries. He forced Clinton to disown the Trans-Pacific Partnership she had previously supported. But he still carried the states of the old industrial Midwest—Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan, and Wisconsin.

So what we have seen is two great revolts by voters against the effects of the existing neoliberal capitalist order. Notice that I say "effects"—these weren't revolts explicitly against neoliberalism.

### Overwhelmed

The Trump campaign drew on and reinforced powerful traditions of American nativism and white racism. But Bernie Sanders's campaign showed how an avowed socialist could speak to precisely the kind of voters whom Trump has ended up dominating.

Sadly Sanders fell in line behind Clinton after the Democratic party machine overwhelmed his own candidacy.

What difference will Trump actually make? This is hard to say. The neoliberal era of financial speculation made him. But his voters will expect him to deliver on his largely unfulfillable campaign promises. This will be a big source of strain under his administration.

After Brexit, Trump's election is the second great breach in the liberal capitalist international order this year. The US has been the lynchpin of this order, but now it has become a wild card.

More broadly, in the US and Britain the political system is breaking loose from its traditional subordination to capital. Big business wanted neither Brexit nor Trump. This will probably be only a temporary situation before a new equilibrium between the state and capital is established, but it is a source of enormous instability.

An open racist succeeding the first black president will reinforce the wave of racism sweeping through Western society. Here in Britain we need to redouble efforts to build Stand Up To Racism. In Trump's US, migrants and black and Muslim people will feel besieged. Black Lives Matter and kindred movements will become even more important.

But resistance isn't enough. We need strategy. The populist right is shaping the rebellion against the effects of neoliberalism and crisis. How can the radical left begin to offer a better alternative? There's a lot of hard work and imaginative thinking ahead for us.

Longer version of this article at [socialistworker.co.uk/art/43681/W](http://socialistworker.co.uk/art/43681/W)



A RANGE of strikers spoke at the conference, including Picturehouse cinema workers

PICTURE: GUY SMALLMAN

# Activists debate how to fight in era of Corbyn and Trump

**UP TO 300 trade unionists and campaigners from around Britain joined the Unite the Resistance conference in central London last Saturday.**

The conference brought together many workers building a fightback. Kathrynne, a charity worker from Durham, told Socialist Worker it was an inspiring day.

"Seeing that there's fight in people who are taking knocks from the cuts and bosses but hitting back harder is amazing" she said.

A range of struggles were represented, from north London library workers and Picturehouse cinema workers to Durham teaching assistants (see page 20).

### Difficult

One workshop discussed strategies for unorganised workers to get organised in difficult circumstances.

Cheryl Pidgeon, a Unite union organiser, spoke about organising largely migrant workers at the Sports Direct warehouse in Shirebrook, North Derbyshire.

"I don't care where workers come from," she said. "Get them in the movement and get them organised."

Niki Fitzgerald, a junior doctor, opened a workshop on defending the welfare state. "We need to demand the fully publicly funded and provided health service we deserve," she said.

The junior doctors' dispute, which officially ended last week, was an opportunity to push back the Tories' attacks. But people argued that the NHS could still be a focal point for resistance.

The workshop also discussed organising around housing and education.

Michael, an NUT teachers' union member from west London, told Socialist Worker, "I came to the conference because I'm very interested in how unions can work together more."

"I picked up some tips on



Cheryl Pidgeon, Unite union

organising at the conference."

Other workshops discussed defending migrants' rights and how to beat the Tories' Trade Union Act.

The need to link up local struggles into a national fight ran through the conference.

### Antidote

Rounding off the day, Jane Aitchison and Julie Sherry from Unite the Resistance spoke at the final rally. Jane said the conference had been a perfect antidote to a week that could easily demoralise people.

Julie told the rally, "There's a deep bitterness among working class people at the relentless attacks on the poor while the rich get richer."

"We saw that with Jeremy Corbyn's election and what happened with Brexit."

"It's easy to feel despair about the situation and feel that Theresa May is all powerful. But the Tories are deeply divided."

"Those at the top of the trade union movement are not calling the action that we need."

"That's why we need to draw together and strengthen the networks of resistance—and take that message into every union branch and workplace."

## We can't wait for TUC

**WHILE SOME trade union leaders are more willing to lead a fightback, others are more pessimistic about the opportunities for resisting the Tories.**

RMT union president Sean Hoyle told the opening rally, "If we wait for the TUC, we'll be waiting for a long time."

"Members need to push leaders in a direction they don't want to go in."

Activists discussed union officials' role in the context of the Trade Union Act at a workshop. While it's now law,

the new restrictions aren't in place yet.

UCU union member Jo and Unison union member Sandy urged trade unionists to think now about how they will respond.

### Restrictions

The workshop also debated how best to organise when union officials block action because of new restrictions, such as strike ballot thresholds.

These kinds of discussions need to be pushed out across the movement.



**Got a story?**

Email ideas to [reports@socialistworker.co.uk](mailto:reports@socialistworker.co.uk)



# Manchester march tells the Tories to frack off

Protesters say no to dangerous shale gas drilling—and the attack on local democracy that's driving it through

**TWO THOUSAND** environmentalists, socialists and trade unionists marched in Manchester last Saturday against Tory plans to frack for shale gas all over Britain.

From the Highlands of Scotland to Somerset in the south west, they came to protest against the government's overturning of local democracy to impose licences to frack for shale gas.

Communities secretary Sajid Javid granted Cuadrilla permission for fracking near Blackpool—despite Lancashire County Council's vote against it. Fracking could also go ahead in Ryedale, north Yorkshire, despite local opposition.

Lots of people had made placards. Chantelle Dhont, a playcentre worker, said, "We don't want fracking, it destroys the water, the air and contaminates animals."

"I've got five younger brothers and sisters and I care about their future. Renewables make perfect sense."

The noisy march with drummers was applauded by bystanders while people chanted, "Frack free Rochdale, frack free everywhere!" And "Cuadrilla, frack off".

Veteran campaigner Anne Power and Green Party Greater Manchester mayoral candidate Deyika Nzeribe marched with the dean block.

Deyika said, "The government has overturned local democracy on commercial grounds, it's about money."

## Angrier

Anne had seen the violent policing of anti-fracking protesters at Barton Moss in nearby Salford in 2013-14. "I saw how the police treated people, I saw young people beaten and bleeding on the ground and got angrier and angrier," she said.

Speaker after speaker at the finishing rally demanded that fossil fuels stay in the ground and investment be made in renewables.

The crowd booed each time a speaker mentioned Javid.

Andy Burnham, the Labour Party candidate for the Greater

## SOLIDARITY

Leading Lancashire anti-fracking activist Tina Rothery could face jail for contempt of court

● Tina's "contempt" consists of refusing to pay £55,000 in eviction costs from a Lancashire field earmarked for fracking

● In fact, protesters had already thoroughly cleaned and left the field when bailiffs arrived

● Show solidarity with Tina on the day of her trial, 9 December

● Find out more about her case and the protest at [bit.ly/2f95FQP](http://bit.ly/2f95FQP)

Manchester mayor said, "As MP for Leigh I've seen the consequences of fossil fuel extraction, how it damages the land and people's health."

"Fracking risks our ground, water and green spaces and I cannot support it anywhere. Westminster is riding roughshod over local people."

He pointed to fracking bans in other countries and US states. "If I'm elected, as the law stands I cannot ban it but I can oppose it," he said. "If fracking isn't good enough for New York then it isn't good enough for here."

Student Andrea Moya Romero said, "There's no democracy, we're getting fracking when we should be fighting climate change."

"I'm here today to build the movement against fracking and the government who will destroy the earth for profit."

She added, "I think the end of capitalism is the main solution but while we live with a capitalist society, we need to invest in renewable technology."

"If the system is based on making profit it will be limited what we can do. But fighting this government will make the fight against capitalism easier."



## More online...

A victory and a defeat in bedroom tax court fight [bit.ly/2gapwDf](http://bit.ly/2gapwDf)



UP TO 2,000 people joined the march in Manchester

PICTURE: NEIL TERRY

## HEALTH SERVICE

# Trusts told to hush up damaging new cuts—as Branson grabs £700 million

by TOMÁŠ TENGYEVANS

HEALTH BOSSES have been instructed to keep secret damaging plans that would see hospital departments and services axed across England.

This was revealed in a new report by the King's Fund think tank into the Sustainability and Transformation Plans (STPs).

The 44 STP areas being rolled out across England aim to "reorganise" and "centralise" local health services.

The report said, "National NHS bodies had also asked STP leaders to keep details of draft STPs out of the public domain. This included instructions to actively reject Freedom of Information Act requests to see draft plans."

This is partly because "NHS leaders wanted to be able to 'manage' the STP narrative... particularly where plans might involve politically sensitive changes".

The Tories claim that the STPs are being pushed through for clinical, not financial, reasons.

They argue that consolidating services into "centres of excellence" and putting more emphasis on "primary care" will improve patient care.

Despite the Tories' and top bosses' efforts to mask the reality, some local plans have already been published or leaked.

Health campaigners are fighting back against the plans already.

Dozens of campaigners rallied outside Huddersfield Royal Infirmary in West Yorkshire last Saturday.

## Slash

Details of the West Yorkshire STP remain secret, but its aim is to slash up to £1 billion from the budget.

Over 100 people rallied against hospital ward closures in Norwich last Friday.

And campaigners in North Devon are using a lively campaign over health service cuts to oppose any attacks that will come out in the STP.

The King's Fund report also argues that the STPs mark a decisive shift from the focus

on competition as a means of improving health service performance".

But this misses the Tories' real aim—to break up and slim-line the NHS in order to soften it up for privatisation.

This was laid bare last week when billionaire convicted fraudster Richard Branson's Virgin Care was handed a £700 million contract—the most lucrative NHS contract ever outsourced.

Virgin will now run over 200 types of services in the Bath and North East Somerset area for the next seven years.

It was awarded by Tory-run Bath and North East Somerset council and the local NHS clinical commissioning group.

But a national fightback can push back these attacks and a fight for the NHS could become a focus for resistance.

Health campaigners have called a national demonstration for the NHS on Saturday 4 March.

The trade unions and Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn should declare their support and build the demonstration.



# Rising mass protests rock hated president

Protest movement is causing a deep crisis for South Korea's ruling class, writes **Workers' Solidarity**

**AROUND ONE million people took to the streets of South Korean capital Seoul last Saturday, demanding president Park Geun-hye's resignation.**

It was the largest demonstration since 1987, when heated street protests and mass strikes forced the former military dictatorship to concede basic democratic rights.

The march coincided with an annual Korean Confederation of Trade Unions (KCTU) national workers' rally.

Some 150,000 KCTU members marched, calling for Park's immediate resignation among other demands.

They were joined by masses of ordinary people and marched on to the presidential palace. Protesters demanded equal rights for women and LGBT+ people.

Park Geun-hye's free market reforms have attacked working class living conditions of men and women, straight or otherwise.

Having KCTU workers lead the march represented a step forward for the movement.

## Hope

For many it was their first experience of any kind of political movement. The hope that fills their ranks has helped the movement grow fast.

But the inevitable twists and turns of such movements mean they could be unprepared as it develops.

From the platform the acting KCTU chairperson said unions will strike later this month.

The exact day of a general strike is to be announced by the KCTU's currently imprisoned chair. He was sentenced to five years for his role in "violent" protests in November last year.

The next step is a day of coordinated local actions this Saturday followed by national action on 26 November.

Large sections of the ruling class believe that allowing the president to fall at a time of increasing instability could be dangerous.

## BACK STORY

**A mass movement is demanding the immediate resignation of South Korea's president**

- The revelation that president Park Geun-hye has long kept a secret, unelected "adviser" triggered the mass protests
- The scandal has exposed corrupt networks between big business and top state officials
- Park is now under huge pressure, with splits in her ruling party and growing workers' struggle and political protest

But keeping Park in place only increases public anger. The main opposition leaders are now all agreed on demanding the president's resignation.

The ruling Saenuri Party is split. Some of the internal opposition leaders have started talking about an "orderly resignation" or an impeachment of the president.

Sometimes our rulers are willing to eliminate the most hated individuals among themselves to try and resolve a crisis.

Sections of the South Korean establishment seem to be preparing for this, though not all the capitalists are agreed.

Days before the million-strong protest, thousands of construction workers went on indefinite strike and quickly reached a favourable deal.

Hundreds of car workers at General Motors' Bupyeong factory marched from their workplace to the town's centre, demanding that Park step down.

Even before the anti-Park movement started, rail workers had been on strike against wage cuts and rail privatisation. The movement needs to deepen its roots in this working class struggle.

Workers' Solidarity is Socialist Worker's sister newspaper in South Korea. View a gallery of pictures at [bit.ly/2eBrL29](http://bit.ly/2eBrL29)



ONE MILLION filled the streets of Seoul demanding that the president resign

PICTURE: WORKERS' SOLIDARITY

## Student occupations spread in Brazil

by DAVE SEWELL

**STUDENTS HAVE occupied more than 1,200 schools and university campuses across Brazil. It is part of a fightback against attacks by the government that has seen huge protests and road blockades.**

Military police have tried to break the student occupations—so activists have mobilised to defend them.

The students are fighting a shake-up of their curriculum and an attempt to gag political discussion in schools. This is part of a 20-year freeze on

spending for social programmes by the right wing government of Michel Temer.

He toppled centre left president Dilma Rousseff in a judicial "coup" this year—but has faced resistance.

The majority of the student occupations have been in the southern state of Parana.

School student Ana Julia Pires Ribeiro was invited to speak in Parana's state parliament last month.

"We're not playing around," she told politicians. "We know what we are fighting for. Our flag is education, our only flag is education."



Protesting over government cuts

## FIGURE IT OUT

**3 months was the length of the first extension of France's state of emergency, introduced in November 2015**

**5 months later the emergency was being used to ban protests against attacks on workers' rights**

**18 months after it was first announced is the next presidential election—when it looks likely to be extended**

ON THE anniversary of France's state of emergency, prime minister Manuel Valls announced that it would "without doubt" be extended again.

The government first declared it on 13 November 2015 after the terrorist attacks in Paris. A week later parliament extended it to three months—the first in a series of extensions.

It has been used for thousands of police raids and hundreds of house arrests.

Extending the emergency in May allowed police to ban activists from going to marches against its attack on workers' rights.

But it didn't prevent a new terror attack in Nice in July.

Valls told the BBC on Sunday that it

was "difficult" to end the emergency, "particularly since we are about to start a presidential election campaign with rallies and public meetings."

"We must protect our democracy." That suggests that the emergency could last until May 2017—18 months after it began—ready for a new government to extend it again.

## French terror laws extended



## No refugee jail here

I WAS delighted to hear that Renfrewshire council rejected the application to build a new jail for removing refugees on a site at Glasgow Airport. I was among 120 protesters who lobbied the council's planning committee.

Coming from across Scotland and the local area, protesters were determined that the plans for the jail would not be implemented.

Slogans like "Refugees are welcome here" and "No borders" were kept up. Speakers from community groups, refugee support groups, students and Stand Up To Racism promised to keep fighting if the plans went ahead.

Councillors had found plenty of reasons to reject the application from the private developers who would be running the removal centre for the Tory government.

They heard that more than 100 objections had been received.

Many of the councillors referred to the Dungavel detention centre south of Glasgow and the continuing protests there.

One councillor called the process "no more than rendition". Another pointed out that the council had previously rejected the site for use for a nursery.

It had moved people from housing there because of air pollution from the airport.

Yet they were being asked to agree to locking people up there.

This is a victory for all the people who have campaigned long and hard in Scotland for an end to locking up refugees.

**Graeme Cumming**  
Ayrshire



## Attack on nursery funding hurts kids who need it most

A BIG campaign has taken off in Cambridgeshire to defend nursery schools. Last week parents, governors, teachers, support staff, Labour councillors, the local MP and others joined together to launch the campaign.

Six local authority nursery schools in the county will close if the government's proposals for funding go ahead.

This gives some parents 30 hours' free childcare.

It will also see local authorities no longer able to ringfence money for this sector of education.

Instead local authorities would have to distribute money across the private, voluntary and independent sector to fund the

government's expansion of early years' provision.

Without adequate funding there will be a cut to provision in the nursery schools.

Nursery schools have higher costs than many nurseries or pre-schools in the private and voluntary sector. This is because they employ qualified teaching staff and are led by head teachers.

Nursery school teams are often placed in areas where there are high levels of deprivation.

They work with children who would not find places in non-state sector settings due to their level of need.

A petition against the funding cut launched this week had over

9,000 signatures within just a few days. We want to focus on how to start spreading action to a national level.

It is not acceptable for the government to wipe out a whole sector of educational provision.

The damaging impact this would have, not only on early years as a sector but on the children we teach and their families, would be devastating.

At our NUT union conference this year we hope to win national policy to take action to defend the services, including strikes.

**Paula Champion**

NUT rep, Fields Children's Centre, Cambridge

Sign the petition at [petition.parliament.uk/petitions/171052](http://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/171052)

ILLUSTRATION: TIM SANDERS

Just a thought...

## A reminder from Port Said

EARLIER THIS month was the 60th anniversary of the RAF bombing of Port Said in Egypt.

Whole areas were reduced to rubble, infrastructure destroyed and civilians killed.

The bombing of cities in this way is rightly regarded as a war crime.

It was part of the Suez invasion—an attempt at regime change.

**John Lloyd**  
West London

## Northerners want a fight

IT'S RIGHT that the RMT union is looking after its members working at Southern Rail.

Perhaps they can also take a look at workers on Northern Rail, who haven't got their holiday back pay, or indeed this year's pay rise from right back in April.

**Jon Long**  
on Facebook

## We need more than hundreds

GOOD TO see hundreds of people protesting at the US embassy last week (Socialist Worker online).

But it's going to take more than hundreds to take on Trump's racism.

**Scott Calkins**  
On Twitter

## Labour needs to get it right

I AGREED with your column on why Labour's in such a muddle about migration (Socialist Worker, 9 November).

The Labour Party must stop pandering to anti-migrant racism.

**Karl**  
Sheffield

## Pub quiz solidarity

DURING OUR strike I got a message from a supportive teacher at a pub quiz where the quizmaster is a Durham Labour councillor.

It said, "Hi. Changed our team name at pub quiz to 'I support the TAs'. Councillor Geldard has to read out team names for every round!"

The councillor refused, saying "no politics on quiz night" but my pal was armed with our flyers too.

**Lisa**  
Durham teaching assistant

## Can't live with Tories—will Labour be better?

I WORK as a school nurse in the Sleaford and North Hykeham constituency where Tory MP Stephen Phillips has just resigned and triggered a by-election.

He said that Theresa May's attitude to MPs means he is "unable properly to represent the people who elected me".

The label "Conservative" is one he can no longer "live with".

But he didn't seem that bothered about his constituents when it came to a wholesale change to

our service.

Thanks to a Conservative government and a Conservative council it is being vastly reduced.

Labour's new candidate in the by-election is Jim Clarke. He's promised to "earn people's trust" about immigration.

I'll be very disappointed if that is the tone of Labour's campaign.

Especially in view of how important immigration is in this area.

**Gill Patterson**  
Lincolnshire

## Oppression affects people in all classes

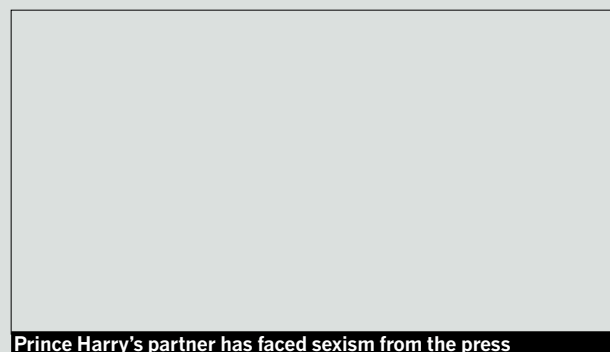
PRINCE HARRY came under scrutiny last week due to his relationship with Meghan Markle.

The right wing media smeared Markle with racist and sexist headlines such as "Harry's Girl on Pornhub".

Of course the sexism and racism experienced by Meghan Markle is different to how ordinary working class women experience oppression.

But oppression—in whatever form—should have no place in our society.

It pervades all classes. While socialists are no fans of the royals, we have to



Prince Harry's partner has faced sexism from the press

take a principled line against sexism wherever it may occur.

This means standing against the right wing

attacks of the likes of The Sun and Daily Mail newspapers.

**Alex Claxton-Mayer**  
Colchester



# ‘The protests have made us feel less fearful’

The election of right wing Republican Donald Trump as US president has led to shock—and sparked protests. Activists across the US spoke to **Alistair Farrow** about the result, the aftermath and how they are fighting back

**P**ROTESTS SWEEPED the US following the election of Donald Trump. Thousands blocked motorways and city centres in disgust at the racism and sexism at the heart of his campaign.

At least 25 cities have seen demonstrations. Last Sunday marked the fifth consecutive day of people coming out on the streets.

A reported 50,000 protested in New York last Saturday. Chants included, “No hatred! No fear! Immigrants are welcome here!”

Thousands of people circled Lake Merritt in Oakland in California’s Bay Area. Tens of thousands protested in Los Angeles.

In Portland, Oregon, protesters fought police as they arrested 71 people on Saturday’s demonstration. Further actions are planned for 14 January, six days before Trump’s inauguration.

Keith Rose, an activist in St Louis, joined protests in Ferguson, Missouri. Ferguson has seen big Black Lives Matter (BLM) protests since 2014 in response to several police killings of unarmed black men.

Keith told Socialist Worker, “One of our protests started when a group of people left a party after watching the election result. They marched down an entertainment district, gathering additional marchers as people in bars came out to join them.”

Police estimated that 7,000 people came out in Oakland, California, the night after the election result. Thousands protested in Chicago, and another 300 in Portland. School students walked out to join the demonstrations in at least 15 states.



John Pietaro, New York



Kayla Robertson, New York



Keith Rose, St Louis



Riley Metcalfe, San Antonio

Kayla is a BLM activist from New York. “A lot of people I know are scared and angry,” she said. “It feels like nowhere in America is safe.”

John, a media worker from New York, agreed. “I’ve been physically ill since the returns began to come in,” he said. “This is a time of terrible coldness for the US.”

Keith added, “The activists involved in the Ferguson protests are deeply saddened by not only Trump’s victory, but the Republican victories throughout Missouri.”

Trump ostracised much of the establishment of the Republican Party to the extent that leading figures such as Paul Ryan publicly distanced themselves from him.

The party machine ploughed resources into winning control of Congress and the House of Representatives, which they did.

There’s a danger that Trump could get a clear run for policies he wants to push through. But the divisions in his party give protesters some hope.

As Daniel from Boston put it, “I think that this will be the start of a civil war in the Republican Party. I



**It feels like a lead curtain has closed on our nation. Now we need to fight even harder**

don’t know how they’ll be able to hold it together under Trump’s leadership.”

He added, “I think this will be a moment which pulls new people into political activity.”

Riley Metcalfe from San Antonio supported left winger Bernie Sanders, who stood and failed to be the Democratic presidential candidate. “It seems the election has made the left coalesce and jump into action,” he told Socialist Worker.

“I’m worried that the movement might be drowned out by liberals, but right now it seems leftist activism is booming.”

Kayla stressed that protests have “helped a lot of people to feel less alone in their anger and fear of a Trump presidency”.

Workers taking collective action can also provide a focus. Those in the Fight for \$15 campaign, demanding a minimum wage of \$15 an hour, are set to strike next month.

Jorel Ware is a fast food worker from New York. He told Socialist Worker the day he heard of Trump’s election was “one of the saddest days of my life”.

But he added, “The Fight For \$15 campaign is very important, now more than ever.”

Lecturer Tiffany Kraft has been active supporting the Fight For \$15 campaign. “It concerns me deeply that Trump’s campaign was built on racism, bigotry and misogyny,” she said. “It feels like a lead curtain has closed on our nation.”

“We need to fight even harder for love and equality.”

Many of those opposing Trump said the Democrats’ failure to stand up for ordinary people lies behind the result.

Annette, a student in Chester,



PROTESTERS IN San Francisco march against Donald Trump’s election victory last week PICTURE: PA



## WORKER’S VOICE

### Now we have to build a wall against Trump

I JUST about managed to force myself to vote for Clinton, but only because I hate Trump so much. I would have voted for Bernie Sanders with a big smile on my face.

Some of the people I work with, good trade union members, voted for Trump.

They’ve fallen for the old trick where some rich huckster pretends to stand for the common man and you’re so angry you buy it.

They were wrong, and they’ll regret it. But I understand them.

They don’t hate women, they don’t hate black people or immigrants. Some of them are women or black people or immigrants.

They all voted for Barack Obama, who let us down badly.

Now we have to build a wall—against Trump and all of those who try to keep making our lives worse while they make huge profits.

●Bob, one of the 38,000 Verizon workers who struck this year and forced major concessions from their company

Virginia, said, “I woke up to the news that Trump had won and it was a shock. But then look at what’s been going on in our government.

“Look at what’s been going on in the US over the last few decades, look at the people who took us to war.”

Clinton represented the bankruptcy of the US political elite and its links with big business while Bernie Sanders called himself a socialist.

Polls of voting intentions at the primary stages showed that Sanders was 15 points ahead of Trump while Clinton was only a couple ahead.

Had Sanders been the Democratic candidate, Trump could have been beaten. Yet the Democratic Party machine has rushed to blame others for its own failings.

Some claim that Green presidential candidate Jill Stein split the “progressive” vote.

“Neoliberals will always blame the left for their problems,” said

Keith. “Before they had finished counting the votes we were already hearing that Stein stole this election from Clinton.

“But the truth is that Clinton didn’t try hard enough to make herself electable.

“She ran from the left, embraced the middle, and ended up losing the centrist votes anyway.”

Sanders supporter Refugio from California said, “Maybe we underestimate how much people of this nation are looking for change in the system.

“The only thing I can possibly think of for Trump’s victory is that the nation is fed up with lies and corruption.”

Everyone who spoke to Socialist Worker was clear on one thing—Trump and the politics he represents must be resisted.

Protesting outside Trump Towers in Chicago last week

PICTURE: PA



## Who voted for Trump?

**WHO VOTED** for Donald Trump? Exit polls suggest that he won backing from most groups of white voters, especially those without a college education.

Some conclude that white, working class voters are racist and were won over by Trump’s whipping up of hatred against Mexicans and Muslims.

Of course Trump did run a disgustingly racist campaign. But he got significant numbers of votes from Latinos and others too. And voting patterns show it’s too simplistic to see this as just a racist vote.

In several states where voters elected Barack Obama, the first black president of the US, in 2008 and 2012 Trump won this time around.

As the New York Times (NYT) newspaper put it, “Industrial towns once full of union voters who for decades offered their votes to Democratic presidential candidates shifted to Trump.”

There is deep anger about stagnant or falling wages, lack of secure jobs and soaring inequality. Because of Clinton’s pro-business policies, some of it was seized by Trump, even though he has no answers for working class people.

In Trumbull, Ohio, Trump won by six points. Voters there backed Obama by 22 points in 2012. In Iowa Obama won easily in 2012. This time Trump won easily.

In the electorally important industrial states of Michigan, Wisconsin and Pennsylvania, Clinton’s vote was down 13 percentage points, 10 points and 9 points, respectively compared to Obama in 2012.

Clinton was also much weaker than Obama with union-household voters. He won them by 58-40, Clinton by just 51-43.

The NYT wrote, “Obama was strong among white working class Northerners.” This doesn’t suggest that these voters can simply be dismissed as racist. It indicates that Clinton’s campaign failed to win their support.

Fewer than a quarter of white men without a college degree backed Clinton, whereas Obama had won a third of their votes.

Nearly 100 percent of black voters aged between 35 and 54 had backed Obama. Just 80 percent voted for Clinton.

In Detroit a city whose population is 83 percent black, Clinton received 48,000 fewer votes than Obama in 2012.

And Obama won 70 percent of the Latino vote, compared to Clinton’s 66 percent.

In contrast, polls suggested that Trump won roughly the same share of Latino voters as Republican candidate Mitt Romney did in 2012.

It showed that a third of Latino men voted for Trump, and 26 percent of Latino women.

White men were most likely to back Trump—63 percent to Clinton’s 31 percent. White women were also more likely to vote for Trump, with 52 percent saying they backed him.

### Hypocritically

Edison Research’s national election poll, sampling 24,537 voters, found that the only white group to back Clinton was college-educated women.

Trump’s campaign wasn’t simply about racism. He hypocritically positioned himself as an “outsider” standing up for ordinary people.

Billionaire Trump claimed such people would no longer be “forgotten”. He pledged to create jobs, provide affordable health care and improve housing.

Meanwhile, Clinton was a clear establishment candidate.

The Edison poll found that the poorest people were still more likely to vote Democrat, while Republican votes rose with income.



**Research shows it is too simplistic to see this as just a racist vote**

Some 52 percent of people earning under £40,000 voted Democrat and 41 percent voted Republican. Those earning more than £40,000 backed Trump by 49 percent and Clinton by 47 percent.

When asked if the next generation of Americans would have a better life than those today, some 59 percent of Democrat voters said yes.

Yet 63 percent of Republican voters said no.

Ordinary people have suffered eight years of cuts and attacks under an Obama Democrat government.

They have watched promises that their lives would get better being broken.

Obama’s supporters made great claims for his healthcare reform.

But a fortnight before the election it was revealed that Obamacare health premiums were set to rise by an average of 25 percent in 2017. This factor may have shifted a crucial number of voters.

Trump has managed to pull some of the anger in US society behind his right wing campaign. It is a serious worry that someone who has been overtly racist and sexist can win such a high vote.

The result doesn’t show a huge shift to the Republicans. Republican candidate Mitt Romney won 47.2 percent of the popular vote in 2012.

Trump had taken 47.5 percent by Wednesday evening—and Clinton looks likely to have won a small majority.

We should always remember that nearly half of eligible voters did not vote at all.

The NYT argued that Trump’s victory was “a powerful rejection of the establishment”. It’s clear that many people are sick of a system that fails them.



## WHAT WE STAND FOR

These are the core politics of the Socialist Workers Party.

### INDEPENDENT WORKING CLASS ACTION

Under capitalism workers' labour creates all profit. A socialist society can only be constructed when the working class seizes control of the means of production and democratically plans how they are used.

### REVOLUTION NOT REFORM

The present system cannot be patched up or reformed as the established Labour and trade union leaders say.

It has to be overthrown. Capitalism systematically degrades the natural world. Ending environmental crisis means creating a new society.

### THERE IS NO PARLIAMENTARY ROAD

The structures of the present parliament, army, police and judiciary cannot be taken over and used by the working class. They grew up under capitalism and are designed to protect the ruling class against the workers.

The working class needs an entirely different kind of state—a workers' state based upon councils of workers' delegates and a workers' militia.

At most parliamentary activity can be used to make propaganda against the present system.

Only the mass action of the workers themselves can destroy the system.

### INTERNATIONALISM

The struggle for socialism is part of a worldwide struggle. We campaign for solidarity with workers in other countries.

We oppose everything which turns workers from one country against those from other countries.

We oppose racism and imperialism. We oppose all immigration controls.

We support the right of black people and other oppressed groups to organise their own defence. We support all genuine national liberation movements.

The experience of Russia demonstrates that a socialist revolution cannot survive in isolation in one country.

In Russia the result was state capitalism, not socialism. In Eastern Europe and China a similar system was later established by Stalinist parties. We support the struggle of workers in these countries against both private and state capitalism.

We are for real social, economic and political equality of women. We are for an end to all forms of discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people.

We defend the right of believers to practise their religion without state interference.

### THE REVOLUTIONARY PARTY

To achieve socialism the most militant sections of the working class have to be organised into a revolutionary socialist party.

Such a party can only be built by activity in the mass organisations of the working class.

We have to prove in practice to other workers that reformist leaders and reformist ideas are opposed to their own interests. We have to build a rank and file movement within the unions.

To join us, turn to page 16 or go to [www.swp.org.uk](http://www.swp.org.uk) or phone 020 7840 5602 for more information

## { SOCIALIST WORKER } PUBLIC MEETINGS

### BIRMINGHAM: CITY CENTRE

**In the era of Trump, Brexit and Corbyn—how can we fight for socialism?**

Wed 30 Nov, 7pm,  
The Priory Rooms,  
Quaker Meeting House,  
40 Bull St,  
B4 6AF

### BRISTOL

**In the era of Trump, Brexit and Corbyn—how can we fight for socialism?**

Wed 23 Nov, 7.30pm,  
YHA,  
14 Narrow Quay,  
BS1 4QA

### HUDDERSFIELD

**In the era of Trump, Brexit and Corbyn—how can we fight for socialism?**

Wed 23 Nov, 6.30pm,  
Brian Jackson House,  
2 New North Parade (near both train and bus stations),  
HD1 5JP

### LEEDS: CITY CENTRE

**In the era of Trump, Brexit and Corbyn—how can we fight for socialism?**

Thu 24 Nov, 7pm,  
The Swarthmore  
Education Centre,  
2-7 Woodhouse Square,  
LS3 1AD

### LIVERPOOL

**In the era of Trump, Brexit and Corbyn—how can we fight for socialism?**

Thu 24 Nov, 7pm,  
Friends Meeting House,  
22 School Ln,  
L1 3BT

### LONDON: BRIXTON

**In the era of Trump, Brexit and Corbyn—how can we fight for socialism?**

Wed 30 Nov, 7pm,  
Vida Walsh Centre,  
2b Saltoun Rd (near Effra Rd,  
facing Windrush Square),  
SW2 1EP

### LONDON: NORTH

**In the era of Trump, Brexit and Corbyn—how can we fight for socialism?**

Wed 23 Nov, 7.45pm,  
St John Vianney Church Hall,  
4 Vincent Rd,  
West Green,  
N15 3QH

### LONDON: TOWER HAMLETS

**In the era of Trump, Brexit and Corbyn—how can we fight for socialism?**

Thu 1 Dec, 7pm,  
Oxford House,  
Derbyshire St (opposite  
Bethnal Green Rd Tesco),  
E2 6HG

### NORWICH

**In the era of Trump, Brexit and Corbyn—how can we fight for socialism?**

Thu 24 Nov, 7.30pm,  
Vauxhall Centre,  
Johnson Place, NR2 2SA

## SOCIALIST WORKER BRANCH MEETINGS

Trump has promised to build a wall along the border between the US and Mexico

# How Trump won—and how he can be fought

### BARNSELEY

Thu 24 Nov, 7pm,  
YMCA,  
Blucher St,  
S70 1AP

### BURNLEY

Wed 23 Nov, 7.30pm,  
Red Triangle Cafe,  
160 St James's St,  
BB11 1NR

### CARDIFF

Wed 23 Nov, 7.30pm,  
Cathays Community Centre,  
Cathays Terrace,  
CF24 4HX

### MANCHESTER: CHORLTON

Wed 23 Nov, 7pm,  
Chorlton Central Church  
(Meeting Room),  
Barlow Moor Rd, M21 8BF

### MEDWAY

Thu 24 Nov, 7.30pm,  
Nucleus Arts Centre  
(Conference Room),  
272 High St, Chatham  
ME4 4BP

### NORWICH

Thu 1 Dec, 7.30pm,  
Vauxhall Centre,  
Johnson Place,  
NR2 2SA

## { SOCIALIST WORKER } BRANCH MEETINGS

Weekly meetings to discuss political issues and our local interventions. All welcome.

### ABERDEEN

**Syria—revolution, counter-revolution and civil war**

Wed 23 Nov, 6pm,  
Belmont Cinema Cafe,  
49 Belmont St, AB10 1JS

### BIRMINGHAM: CITY CENTRE

**Socialists and the media—will the revolution be televised?**

Wed 23 Nov, 7pm,  
Birmingham LGBT Centre,  
38/40 Holloway Circus,  
B1 1EQ

### BRADFORD

**Is the media all powerful?**

Thu 24 Nov, 7pm,  
Priory Street  
Community Centre,  
15 Priory St,  
YO1 6ET

### BRIGHTON

**Bring down the borders—why we oppose all immigration controls**

Thu 24 Nov, 7.30pm,  
Friends Meeting House,  
Ship St,  
BN1 1AF

### CHESTERFIELD

**A rebel's guide to Gramsci**

Thu 24 Nov, 7.30pm,  
Chesterfield Library,  
New Beetwell St,  
S40 1QN

### COLCHESTER

**Dockers to dishwashers—how has the working class changed?**

Wed 23 Nov, 7.30pm,  
The Odd One Out,  
28 Mersea Rd, CO2 7ET

### COVENTRY

**Rock Against Racism—its history and legacy**

Wed 23 Nov, 7.30pm,  
West Indian Centre,  
159 Spon St, CV1 3BB

### DONCASTER

**Socialists and the media—will the revolution be televised?**

Wed 23 Nov, 7.30pm,  
Women's Centre,  
21 Cleveland St, DN1 3EH

### EDINBURGH

**Scotland and the slave trade—a forgotten history**

Wed 23 Nov, 7.30pm,  
Friends Meeting House,  
7 Victoria St, EH1 2JL

### EXETER

**Can the Tories destroy the welfare state and why would they want to?**

Thu 24 Nov, 6.30pm,  
New Horizon Cafe,  
47 Longbrook St, EX4 6AW

### HARLOW

**Syria—revolution, counter-revolution and civil war**

Thu 24 Nov, 7.30pm,  
Friends Meeting House,  
1 Church Leys, CM18 6BX

### LANCASTER

**Over the rainbow—money, class and homophobia**

Thu 24 Nov, 7pm,  
Friends Meeting House,  
Meeting House Lane,  
LA1 1TX

### LONDON: CENTRAL

**Is the media all powerful?**

Thu 24 Nov, 7pm,  
Room 215, UCL Foster  
Court Building,  
Malet Place,  
WC1E 6BT

### LONDON: EALING

**Will Brexit lead to Scottish independence?**

Thu 1 Dec, 7.30pm,  
Y Lounge,  
YMCA West London,  
25 St Mary's Rd, W5 2RE

### LONDON: HACKNEY

**Can Theresa May save the Tories?**

Thu 24 Nov, 7.30pm,  
The Round Chapel,  
2 Powerscroft Rd (corner  
Lower Clapton Rd), E5 0PU

### LONDON: HARINGEY

**The gig economy—from coal mines to call centres**

Wed 30 Nov, 7.30pm,  
St John Vianney Church Hall,  
386 West Green Rd  
(corner Vincent Rd),  
N15 3QH

### LONDON: NEWHAM

**Syria—revolution, counter-revolution and civil war**

Wed 23 Nov, 7pm,  
Stratford Advice Arcade,  
107-109 The Grove (next  
to Morrisons car park),  
E15 1HP

### LONDON: TOWER HAMLETS

**Spain 1936—revolution and civil war**

Wed 23 Nov, 7pm,  
Oxford House,  
Derbyshire St (opposite  
Bethnal Green Rd Tesco),  
E2 6HG

### LONDON: WALTHAM FOREST

**Rock Against Racism—its history and legacy**

Wed 23 Nov, 7.30pm,  
Quaker Meeting House,  
1a Jewel Rd (off Hoe St),  
E17 4QU

### MANCHESTER: CITY CENTRE

**The revolutionary ideas of Karl Marx**

Thu 24 Nov, 7pm,  
Friends Meeting House,  
6 Mount St, M2 5NS

### NEWCASTLE

**Syria—revolution, counter-revolution and civil war**

Thu 24 Nov, 7pm,  
Broadacre House,  
Market St, NE1 6HQ

### NOTTINGHAM

**Why we need a revolutionary party**

Wed 23 Nov, 7.30pm,  
International  
Community Centre,  
61b Mansfield Rd, NG1 3FN

### POOLE

**Arguments for revolution**

Wed 14 Dec, 7.30pm,  
Butler & Hops,  
88 High St, BH15 1DB

### PORTSMOUTH

**Organising to win—socialists in the workplace**

Wed 23 Nov, 7.30pm,  
Somerstown  
Community Centre,  
River's St, PO5 4EZ

### SHEFFIELD: CITY CENTRE

**A rebel's guide to Rosa Luxemburg**

Thu 15 Dec, 7pm,  
Central United  
Reformed Church,  
60 Norfolk St (near Crucible  
Theatre), S1 2JB

### SOUTHAMPTON

**Capitalism and war**

Wed 23 Nov, 7.30pm,  
Central Baptist Church Hall,  
Devonshire Rd, SO15 2GY

### SWANSEA

**Hinkley Point—why nuclear power is not the answer**

Thu 24 Nov, 7.30pm,  
Brynmill Community Centre,  
St Albans Rd, SA2 0BP

### YORK

**Can socialism come through parliament? The lessons from Chile 1973**

Wed 30 Nov, 7.30pm,  
Sea Horse Hotel,  
4 Fawcett St,  
YO10 4AH

## { MOVEMENT EVENTS }

### NATIONAL

**National demo—United for Education**

Sat 19 Nov, 10am,  
Central London,  
assemble Park Lane, (Nearest  
tube stations are Marble  
Arch and Bond Street)

### NOTTINGHAM

**Stand Up To Racism public meeting—confronting the rise in racism**

Wed 30 Nov, 7pm,  
Nonsuch Theatre,  
32 Clarendon St,  
NG1 5JD

### PORTSMOUTH

**Stand Up To Racism public meeting—confronting the rise in racism**

Thu 24 Nov, 7pm,  
Portsmouth Friendship  
Centre, Elm Grove,  
Southsea,  
PO5 1JT

# Socialist Worker

[ For daily updates and the stories that matter: [socialistworker.co.uk](http://socialistworker.co.uk) ]

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## CONTACT THE SWP

Phone 020 7840 5600  
Email  
[enquires@swp.org.uk](mailto:enquires@swp.org.uk)  
Post PO Box 71327,  
London SE11 9BW



# Setting the record straight on how migrants built NHS

BBC documentary *Black Nurses* busts the myth that migrants drain our NHS, but it misses out the story of their collective struggle, writes **Yuri Prasad**

**“HEALTH TOURISM” is never far from the right wing press’s lips. But the contribution that nurses from Africa and the Caribbean made to the NHS barely gets a mention.**

BBC Four’s new programme *Black Nurses* aims to set the record straight.

Just as the first boatloads of West Indian people were arriving in 1948, the NHS was in the process of being born.

A recruitment crisis soon hit—demand was high but the number of health workers available was low. Ministers dispatched people to the colonies in a bid to attract young people to come to the aid of the “mother country”.

But instead of gratitude, the thousands of trainee nurses that came faced the most appalling racism.

Bosses assumed that black women were not suitable to be “State Registered Nurses”, because the training was thought too hard for them.

## Shunted

Many were shunted into being State Enrolled Nurses, a position that guaranteed they would only do menial work on the wards.

“I just felt like nothing—I was a slave, I was taken for granted,” recalls Sislin Hunte in the programme.

Through sheer determination, she went on to retrain as a district nurse.

Little was done to prepare the trainees for the prejudice they would experience from patients.

Allyson Williams MBE, a former midwife from Trinidad, remembers that some people would slap her hands away from them when she tried to examine them. “Your black



A GROUP of nurses at Mary Seacole Hospital in London

PICTURE: BBC/MAROON PRODUCTIONS LTD/VICTOR CHIMARA

is going to rub off on me,” they would scream.

Life outside the hospitals was rarely better.

Trainee nurses earned a pittance, making dreams of saving enough money to qualify and go home little more than a fantasy.

Those who began families in Britain, or brought over young children, found there was little or no childcare.

They had to work permanent

nights so they could be with their children for part of the day.

The programme pulls no punches when describing those early decades of the NHS, then moves on to the happier terrain of the present day.

But if you were looking for an explanation for why things changed for the better, you’ll only get part of the story here.

The struggles against health service cuts and for decent pay and career progression from the 1970s

onward don’t get a mention. Instead, advancement is the result of individual endeavour.

Their stories are impressive. But the history of black and white health workers uniting to better their conditions and defend the NHS is just as valuable.

## Black Nurses—the Women Who Saved the NHS

BBC Four  
Thursday 24 November, 9pm

# Searching for the roots of Reggae’s liberatory sound

## TELEVISION

### ROOTS, REGGAE AND REBELLION

Presented by Akala  
Available on [bbc.co.uk/iplayer](http://bbc.co.uk/iplayer)

ROOTS, REGGAE and Rebellion, presented by the politically-charged rapper and poet Akala, is a journey through the rise of the movement.

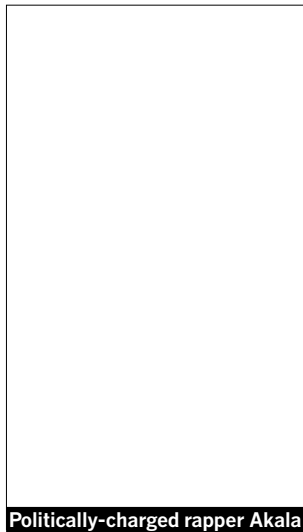
In this BBC Four programme—and also a Radio 4 series—he takes us from its beginnings in Jamaica in the 1960s to the 1970s when the music became engrained in British culture. It ends

by looking at the genre’s influence on contemporary music, such as grime.

The programme is supported by archive footage and interviews with academics, musicians and people who grew up listening to the music.

It offers up a fully rounded view of the impact it had on the people of Jamaica and those surrounding the scene.

We see how Roots was seen as part of a new revolution, where Jamaicans could define their own identities outside colonial rule.



Politically-charged rapper Akala

Getting to the core of the music, Akala importantly focuses on Roots’ connection to the religion of Rastafari.

He shows the powerful influence it had on the followers, who wanted to reconnect with their African heritages.

The programme also highlights the Jamaican state’s constant attempt to abolish this uprising, even after the country won independence from Britain in 1962.

Rastafarians were still stigmatised as criminals, until a visit by their figurehead Emperor Haile

Selassie in 1966 drew a gathering of 100,000 people. The realisation of the power of the religion, transcended the nation and was the catalyst for the growth of Roots Reggae.

Roots, Reggae and Rebellion touches upon musical greats such as Bob Marley and Peter Tosh and captures the beauty of the connection between music and resistance.

It was music made to elevate consciousness, but most significantly it’s about uniting people together through struggle.

Lois Brown

## EXHIBITION

### PORTRAIT OF PALESTINE—WITH TIM SANDERS AND FRIENDS

Tuesday 29 November, 6-9pm, £10 including tickets and refreshments (mezze dishes and drinks)

Book tickets online at [bit.ly/2eJqEy](http://bit.ly/2eJqEy) or email [thpalestinesolidarity@gmail.com](mailto:thpalestinesolidarity@gmail.com)

TOWER HAMLETS Palestine Solidarity Campaign is holding a special launch party with illustrator and cartoonist Tim Sanders.

As well as being Socialist Worker’s cartoonist, Tim travelled to Palestine with

Tim Sanders

the Jenin Freedom Theatre last year.

Here Tim will present the images he drew of life in the occupied West Bank. His limited edition prints will be available to buy.

Momim Swaitat, a Palestinian performer, will also talk about the challenges that Palestinian artists face.

See Socialist Worker’s interview and picture spread of Tim’s work from Palestine here: [bit.ly/2eo2LuX](http://bit.ly/2eo2LuX)

## TOP 5 BOOKS

Bestsellers at Bookmarks, the socialist Bookshop

- 1 **A Rebel’s Guide to Malcolm X**  
Antony Hamilton
- 2 **Jeremy Corbyn, the Labour Party and the fight for socialism**  
Charlie Kimber
- 3 **A Very Capitalist Condition—a history and politics of disability**  
Roddy Slorach
- 4 **Citizen Clem—a biography of Attlee**  
John Bew
- 5 **The Leveller Revolution**  
John Rees

Phone 020 7637 1848  
[bookmarksbookshop.co.uk](http://bookmarksbookshop.co.uk)  
Why not visit the shop at 1 Bloomsbury Street, London WC1B 3QE



**C**onventional political certainties are being swept away. Parties that believed they had massive and secure support bases are suddenly losing them.

The “centre” of politics is falling apart. Deep anger at the grinding economic crisis, stagnant or collapsing living standards, and an undemocratic and unaccountable political elite is bursting to the surface in unpredictable ways.

The Financial Times newspaper wrote after Donald Trump’s victory, “The American people have spoken—or perhaps shouted—and nothing is likely to be the same again. The mere fact of Mr Trump’s victory puts him halfway towards obliterating an establishment that was largely united in revulsion at his candidacy.

“Every pollster in the land misread the US public. By electing a man whom voters knew to be disrespectful of US constitutional niceties, America has dispatched the electoral equivalent of a suicide bomber to Washington. Mr Trump’s mandate is to blow up the system.”

More pithily the French ambassador to the US tweeted, “Everything is now possible. A world is collapsing before our eyes.”

The question is whether the fury at big business and the political elite is turned leftwards or grabbed by the racists and the right.

It can fuel great new socialist movements that offer hope or give ammunition to the fascists.

This is the era of both Trump and Jeremy Corbyn.

Capitalism is not delivering, and it is less and less credible to say that with just a few small reforms it can be made to work for the benefit of all.

For a period in the 1950s special circumstances allowed the system to expand and deliver some improvements for at least a section of the world’s ordinary people. But that era has long past.

**T**ODAY THERE are many parallels with the 1930s, when fascist movements flourished against the background of a devastating economic crisis.

The threat of fascism should be taken very seriously.

The regime responsible for the Holocaust was destroyed, but the system that created it lives on. But the 1930s was not just the era of Hitler, Mussolini and Franco.

It also saw unprecedented mass strikes in France and the highest point of the US labour movement so far.

It also saw the Spanish Revolution and powerful workers’ struggles in Germany that could have blocked the



# RESISTIBLE RISE OF THE NEW RIGHT

The politics of the ruling class are in deep crisis as disillusionment with the system deepens. **Socialist Worker** argues that discontent doesn’t have to go to the right



Marine Le Pen

fascists and gone on to fight for socialist change.

One of the key elements today is the failure of the Labour-type social democratic parties. In Spain, Greece, France and Britain they implemented austerity, and paid a heavy price.

In some cases this has fuelled parties further to the left, such as—for a period—Syriza and Podemos.

Elsewhere the far right has grown—such as Marine Le Pen’s Front National in France.

The trade union leaders—who in general have held back



**When struggle is held back it is easier for individualism and division to emerge**

struggle in Britain, the US and much of Europe—have also made it easier for the right to grow.

When there are big strikes workers feel their unity and their anger is directed upwards against the bosses and the state.

When struggle is held back it is easier for individualism and division to emerge.

Sunday 4 December could see Ukip leader Nigel Farage lead a march in London at the same time as fascist Norbert Hofer wins the Austrian presidential election.

It’s also important to say that broad similarities between events in different countries can mask fundamental differences.

Donald Trump’s victory is not the same as the Leave vote in Britain.

It’s true that both rest upon deep dissatisfaction among broad layers of working class people. But there is a strongly progressive case for opposing the neoliberal, austerity-imposing, migrant-repelling European Union (EU).

There is no progressive case for Trump.

However contradictory people’s reasons, voting for a bigoted boss is not the same as voting against the bosses’ EU.

The US presidential election saw a 57 percent turnout, a continuation of a long-term trend where about half the population don’t vote. The EU referendum in contrast saw a huge turnout of 72 percent.

Although Trump alienated many leading Republicans, the party and its voters largely held together behind him. Brexit split the Tories in half with many ministers, activists and voters backing Remain.

The Leave side’s most visible supporters were racists no better than Trump. But others were more like those who rallied to Bernie Sanders’ left wing case against neoliberal trade deals.

**M**ARINE LE Pen, who could win the first round of France’s election next year, cheered both Trump and Brexit. But her Front National party represents a distinct danger.

Trump barged his way to the head of one of the existing main parties. Le Pen is seeking to sweep them aside with an organised, active movement all of her own.

Trump stands in the tradition of celebrity-turned-Republican-president Ronald Reagan—and of US populists who won big votes only to fizzle away. Le Pen is a real fascist.

Some narratives submerge these differences. For example, many articles have tried to explain a rise in nationalism in psychological terms.

They say industrial decline and economic crisis made fearful workers turn inwards. They say civil rights and women’s liberation made white people and men resentful of a relative loss of “privilege”.

Others erect a false division in society.

On one side are the backward isolationists—the angry, the racist, the “uneducated” and the poor (or at least poor whites).

On the other are the forces of openness—the European Union (EU), the US Democratic Party, globalisation and anyone with progressive politics. But this masks a real class war.

The institutions of neoliberal

capitalism are no friends of those who defend freedom and equality.

Toxic nationalists are no friends of those who have suffered from globalisation’s effects.

Democrat Barack Obama oversaw more deportations than any other president, across a border that’s already in large part walled off.

Labour prime minister Tony Blair brought “tough measures” against immigrants supposedly “placing our hospitality under threat”.

The EU builds external border controls to keep out supposed “economic migrants”, “bogus asylum seekers” and “terror threats”. These same myths boosted racists against EU migrants.

The respectable yet often vicious Islamophobia of the “war on terror” also created a space for more extreme forms.

Caricaturing the situation lets a society that breeds despair off the hook—along with politicians who use racism to exploit or deflect that despair. And it avoids the question of what we can do about it.

**C**onfronting reality with all its contradictions reveals a challenge that’s daunting but not hopeless.

Racist scapegoating can tap into workers’ fears. But few workers buy into it fully.

Many believe that there is too much immigration in the abstract, for example, yet defend actual immigrants—from their workmates to refugee children.

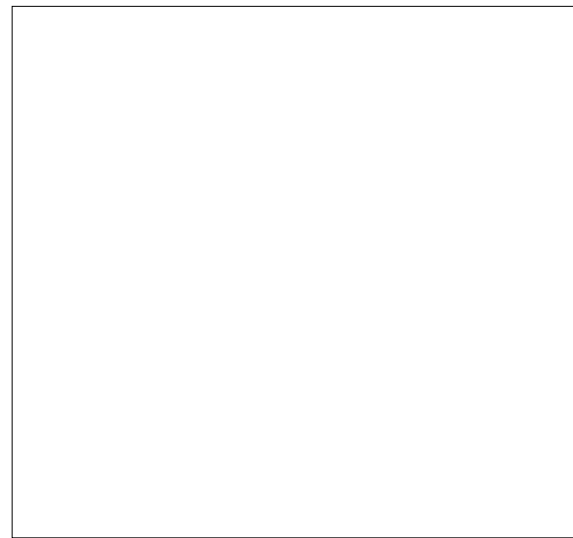
There is a sense of the weakness of the socialist left and the trade union movement. But the sudden surges in support for Sanders and Corbyn revealed much wider demand for left wing ideas than previously suspected.

Mass protests and strikes appear to be reviving in the US. In Britain they remain generally at a low ebb—although when given the chance to strike workers take it up enthusiastically.

The situation can change. Throughout the history of the working class in Britain, long periods of decline for the trade unions have alternated with strike waves that build them anew.

There’s no guarantee that this will happen again, though stirrings of activity even among supposedly unorganisable groups of workers are a reminder not to rule it out.

France, where the situation



**HILLARY** Clinton conceding defeat (top) and **Bernie Sanders** supporters rallying in March (above)

ABOVE PICTURE: GAGE SKIDMORE/FICKR



Nigel Farage

currently seems bleakest, shows this vividly. Authoritarian president Charles De Gaulle governed almost unchallenged except by the hard right, up to a few months before the biggest general strike ever in 1968.

And mass strikes earlier this year were a reminder of working class power, re-energising debates about how to unleash it. Economic crisis and the political volatility it produces can increase the opportunities for such explosions.

People are less likely to trust the existing system to safeguard their future and more likely to look beyond it—one way or another.

Complacent assumptions that the racist right will burn itself out are dangerous.

So is despair that overstates their strength and our weakness. Both are recipes for inaction that can be lethal.

Instead we need a mass movement against racism, united opposition to the fascists who feed on it, and a real alternative to the system that breeds it.

## READ MORE

● **Why did Britain vote Leave?** by Charlie Kimber in International Socialist Journal [bit.ly/2gapcEw](http://bit.ly/2gapcEw)

● **The slump of the 1930s and the crisis today** by Chris Harman [bit.ly/2fr9VxY](http://bit.ly/2fr9VxY)

● **Say it loud—Marxism and the fight against racism** by Brian Richardson and others, £9.99

Available at Bookmarks on 020 7637 1848 or at [bookmarksbookshop.co.uk](http://bookmarksbookshop.co.uk)



## New movement erupts against murderous regime

Anger has burst onto the streets of Morocco after a police murder. **Mehdi Rafiq** looks at what’s driving the movement

MASS demonstrations have swept through Morocco in North Africa after the murder of fish seller Mohsin Fikri in Al-Hoceima last month (see box).

They are the biggest protests since the 20 February movement erupted in 2011.

The strongest protests have been in the north, with 70,000 marching in Al-Hoceima on 6 November and 40,000 in Tangier on 5 November.

Tangier is a working class port city and hosts two industrial “free zones”, set up to favour multinational corporations’ investments. There have also been protests in the capital Rabat and in Casablanca, Tetouan and dozens of other towns and cities.

The trade unions have not declared their support for the protests, because they are waiting for the outcome of a government inquiry into the death.

The mainstream political parties are supporting King Mohammed VI’s autocratic regime. While the opposition Islamist parties are supportive of the protests, they aren’t trying hard to organise or direct them.

The radical left has thrown itself wholeheartedly into the battle, but has not been able to shape the protests’ slogans or demands.

The king tried to head off people’s anger from the beginning, but his intervention has failed to stem the movement.

In response, the regime has launched a frenzied media campaign, claiming that the movement is the work of a minority of troublemakers.

They claim the protests are part of an international plot to undermine the UN’s Cop 22 climate change conference that began in Marrakech on 7 November. The regime has also

### PROTESTERS DEMAND justice

#### BACK STORY

**Protests erupted in Morocco in North Africa at the end of last month after a grisly killing**

● Police turned on a refuse crushing machine with fish seller Mohsin Fikri inside

● He was trying to retrieve merchandise that police had confiscated from him

● Protesters are demanding justice for Fikri

● Their demands have developed to attack the regime and social problems

attempted to split the movement by playing the “Berber” card. The Berber ethnic minority, who prefer the name Amazigh, are an indigenous population across North Africa.

Al-Hoceima, where the movement erupted, has an Amazigh majority population and Fikri was of Amazigh descent.

Some Amazigh activists have argued that his murder is primarily about Amazigh oppression and

not linked to the underlying problems in Morocco. But behind the protests are deep-rooted social grievances, which were caused by neoliberalism and austerity.

Most new jobs are in the private sector, where 62 percent of workers are in insecure jobs and 800,000 are without social insurance.

Meanwhile, education and health services have faced deep budget cuts.

The movement has also continued to develop.

While the call-out for the first demonstrations was made on Facebook, young activists have started setting up assemblies to organise the protests.

The slogans raised by protesters have also developed from demands for justice for Fikri. As the protests continued, new slogans attacking the regime’s monopoly on Morocco’s wealth have appeared.

Demonstrators have been chanting, “Phosphates and two oceans, but we live a life of oppression.”

This refers to the fact that Morocco has 80 percent of global phosphate reserves and has a coast on both the Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea.

Only the elite have access to these resources, ordinary people are excluded. That’s why a new movement is demanding social justice—as well as the prosecution of those responsible for Fikri’s murder.

**Mehdi Rafiq** is a revolutionary socialist in Morocco. More on [socialistworker.co.uk](http://socialistworker.co.uk)



**Slogans against the regime’s monopoly on wealth have now emerged**



# Rotherham 12 'had every right' to protest

by PHIL TURNER

**JURORS WERE considering their verdict in the trial of the Rotherham 12 as Socialist Worker went to press.**

A group of Asian men, known as the Rotherham 12, were charged with violent disorder after a peaceful counter protest against a Britain First march.

The court heard last week that protesters did no more than act in self defence while standing together against a "cauldron of hatred" from Nazi thugs.

Michael Mansfield QC, defending two of the men, said the "air was filled with fear" after the people of the town were "besieged and plagued" by "toxic" fascist groups who marched 14 times in 14 months.

## Fear

"The fear was not a fantasy—it was a reality," Mr Mansfield told Sheffield Crown Court.

An 81 year old grandfather Mushin Ahmed was kicked and stamped to death in a brutal murder.

He died days before a march by Nazi group Britain First on 5 September last year.

## No to fascist Le Pen on the BBC



UNITE AGAINST Fascism supporters protest at the BBC headquarters in London last Sunday as the corporation broadcast an interview with French fascist leader Marine Le Pen. Jeremy Corbyn offered support to the protest as he went in to the appear on the Andrew Marr programme

PICTURE: GEOFF DEXTER

Mansfield added, "There comes a point when people have to say to themselves, are we going to be humiliated to the extent that we won't leave our homes?"

"And is it time to show our respect and solidarity for this elderly man who

was stamped to death?"

A group of drunken fascists stood outside the William Fry pub being racially abusive to a group of young Asians and threatening violence.

The Nazis then attacked demonstrators on their way home from a

counter protest by throwing pint glasses and beer bottles.

The men outside the pub filmed the violence at the pub as a way of recruiting others in a failed attempt to boast that they had successfully resisted attacks by Asians, Mansfield said.

The two men Mansfield represents, Asif Zaman and Arshad Khan, both had their children in the area.

They had gone on a peaceful counter protest organised by Unite Against Fascism.

A charge of possessing an offensive weapon against Asif Zaman was withdrawn on the instructions of the judge.

## Voice

Mansfield told the jury, "They wanted to make a public statement, not to change the world or to impose their views, but were just citizens of Rotherham, whose voice, you may feel, should be heard in the context of everything else going on."

"They had every right to do what they did, given what happened and where they live."

"They faced an unpredicted and unexpected onslaught which they should not have had to face."

Defence barrister Nick Wrack said it was wrong to equate fascist thugs intent on violence with peaceful counter protesters.

"Don't give these people the satisfaction, the victory of carrying out what they did that day by seeing any single one of these defendants convicted," he told the jury.

The trial continues.

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# Kamikaze council declares war on Glasgow's workers

Labour-controlled Glasgow council is pushing through vicious cuts but workers are fighting back. **Raymie Kiernan** looks at the politics behind the strikes and Labour's disgraceful record

**GLASGOW LABOUR** council leader Frank McAveety acts like a man on a kamikaze mission.

It will be nothing short of a miracle if the veteran Blairite and his councillors avoid a rout in the Scottish council elections in May next year. The Scottish National Party (SNP) is widely predicted to sweep the board.

Years of betrayals have seen support for Labour in the city disintegrate but McAveety has put the foot on the accelerator. Some suspect it's about leaving the biggest mess possible for the SNP.

He has gone on the offensive against striking workers at council-run firms Cordia and Community Safety Glasgow (CSG). It's a return to form from 19 years ago, the last time he was council leader.

In 1997-99, he attacked workers with anti-union laws, and their conditions with a sign or be sacked ultimatum. It was similar to the attack unleashed by Labour today on teaching assistants in County Durham.

## Calling

Last week McAveety condemned trade unions. He said they "are prepared to make the public suffer by calling for strikes when their members are getting wage increases".

The bit missing was that the wage rise was the result of CSG workers fighting for it, after years of low pay. They still don't have parity with council employees—so their action continues every weekend.

Labour's "arm's length" companies were created to drive through cuts and hammer conditions. But years of



WORKERS PROTEST against privatisation of IT services at Glasgow council

PICTURE: DUNCAN BROWN

being squeezed for more work and no extra money has seen workers fight back.

At Cordia, bosses upped the ante against janitors who have been taking action since January to receive the same extra payments available to council employees.

In a shock "janitorial review" a new pilot scheme was announced that could cut 25 percent of jobs in the city. But janitors escalated action with a two-week walkout on Monday,

mounting mass pickets at the schools in the pilot the day it was due to start.

Not content with two disputes Labour provoked another, bigger group of workers by voting to privatise council IT services. It even allowed the multinational it hopes will run the service to try and bribe workers with shares in the company. IT workers were set to strike on Thursday.

All three disputes look set to continue into next year as Labour chiefs

bunker down for the winter. The Unison union, which represents most of the workers involved, has written to the leaders of both the Scottish and British Labour parties calling on them to publicly back the workers' fight.

As Socialist Worker went to press neither Scottish Labour leader Kezia Dugdale, her deputy Alex Rowley, Jeremy Corbyn or John McDonnell had responded.

It's time they spoke out and backed council staff facing Labour cuts.

## McAveety's days are numbered after decades of cuts

IF ANY Glasgow council worker was unfortunate enough to hear Frank McAveety's speech at the Labour Party



A striking janitor

conference in September it would, undoubtedly, have made their blood boil.

Labour's £1 billion transfer of Glasgow's council housing out of public hands was apparently cause to celebrate.

McAveety added, "We were the first council in Scotland to introduce the Living Wage," ignoring how Labour's outsourcing consistently drove workers' pay and conditions down.

"We were the first council in Scotland to say the Trade Union Bill was unacceptable," he continued. But Glasgow council has used existing anti-union laws

against its workers. When the SNP bids to take over the council in May, McAveety insisted that "we must remind people what difference having a Labour council can make to everyone's life".

## Attempts

In the last two years in Glasgow that's meant attempts to scrap public holidays for council workers and free school buses for the poorest children. Funding cuts have also gutted mental health services.

Labour's time is coming to an end. Through most of the 1950s, 60s and 70s—and since 1980 its councillors have run Glasgow. But for more than

a decade now the political map of Scotland has been turning yellow as the SNP cements its dominance.

Since the 2014 independence referendum that process has accelerated.

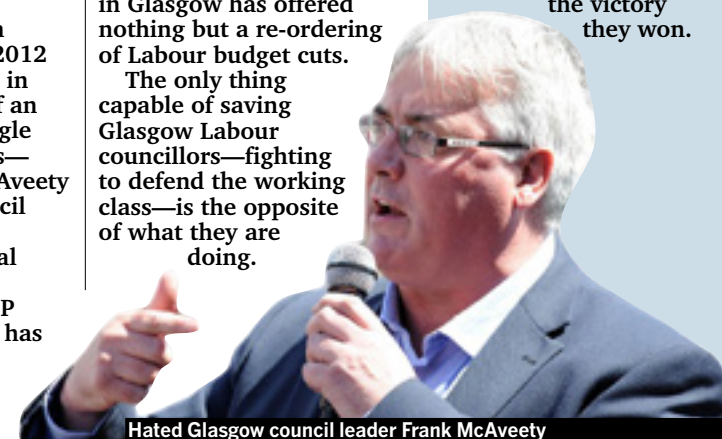
At the last Scottish council elections in 2012 Glasgow Labour was in turmoil as a result of an internal power struggle between rival cliques—coincidentally as McAveety returned to the council fold.

Despite the internal warfare Labour held Glasgow. But the SNP also made gains and has comfortably won six by-elections on the trot since, further evidence of the

party's growing support in the city.

Despite its "anti-austerity" image the SNP Scottish government has presided over massive cuts and at council level in Glasgow has offered nothing but a re-ordering of Labour budget cuts.

The only thing capable of saving Glasgow Labour councillors—fighting to defend the working class—is the opposite of what they are doing.



Hated Glasgow council leader Frank McAveety

## Resisting the Blairite council

IN 1997 Tony Blair was elected prime minister. In the same year Frank McAveety became leader of Glasgow City Council.

His administration rapidly found itself facing two major industrial disputes against New Labour's "modernising" agenda—involving social workers and library workers.

Groups of workers often viewed as unlikely to take action fought back and challenged New Labour's cuts head on.

Those and subsequent fights had a strong bearing on disputes in the years after.

The lessons have helped groups of workers beat back the Labour councillors and the arm's length bosses.

Homelessness caseworkers went on indefinite strike last year for almost four months—they were as tough as the current groups that have moved into battle.

Politicising their dispute, putting pressure on Labour and maximising the solidarity of other trade unionists were key to the victory they won.



## IN BRIEF

**Ritzzy bosses are taking the biscuit**

BECTU UNION members at the Ritzzy cinema in Brixton have announced the latest strikes in their ongoing dispute for the London Living Wage as well as other demands.

The first was set to start this Thursday at 10pm. This will be followed by strikes on Friday between 4pm and 9pm, Saturday from noon until 6am Sunday, Sunday between 3pm and 6.30pm and on Monday from 6pm to 9pm.

●Send messages saying you support the strikers to corporate@cineworld.co.uk and cc ritzzylivingwage@gmail.com

**Out to beat the hated Housing Act**

HOUSING ACTIVISTS are set to hold a protest outside parliament on the day of the Autumn Statement, Wednesday 23 November.

The Axe the Housing Act campaign has called the protest to keep pressure on the Tory Housing and Planning Act (see page 2).

●Join the protest 23 November, 12pm to 4pm, Old Palace Yard, London SW1P3JY

**Sheffield unites for £10 an hour wages**

Activists in Sheffield are preparing for a demonstration to demand a £10 an hour minimum wage.

The protest is set to take place on Thursday 17 December at 12 noon and starts from Devonshire Green.

**Protest demands Kurdish rights**

AROUND 2,000 people joined a demonstration in London last Saturday in defence of peace and democracy in Turkey. In the latest assault, the Turkish interior ministry ordered 370 NGOs and community organisations inside Turkey to be closed.

Some 199 are Kurdish and accused of being affiliated to the PKK. It is important that British trade unionists support the fightback.

●See SPOT (Solidarity with the People of Turkey) on Facebook

**Civil service staff reject payoff cut**

THE PCS union has said the need for members to vote to reject Tory cuts to redundancy pay "has become even more important" after the cut was forced through last week.

Cuts to the Civil Service Compensation Scheme (CSCS) will see caps on compulsory and redundancy pay reduced.

They will also change the way redundancy payments are calculated.

Strikes across civil service departments can save jobs and office closures—and force the Tories to row back on their CSCS cuts.

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT



STRIKING JANITORS in Glasgow protest outside St Monica's primary school

# Janitors escalate with mass school pickets

by RAYMIE KIERNAN

STRIKING JANITORS in Glasgow have mounted mass pickets at workplaces that bosses propose to be part of a scheme that could see a quarter of janitors sacked.

Around 100 joined the pickets this week. School bus drivers and staff at one nursery refused to cross the picket in solidarity.

Janitors want payments for dirty and physically demanding work that are available to other employees and walked out for two weeks on Monday.

Cordia employs the janitors, mainly at primary schools. It is a council-run firm created by the Labour administration,

and is one of three separate disputes at Glasgow council (see page 17).

Striker Steven told Socialist Worker, "We're getting a lot of support from the parents. They're telling us we are quite right to do this."

Instead of negotiating bosses have spent tens of thousands of pounds trying to get other Cordia staff to cover the janitors' duties.

"These are people that don't know the job," Steven said.

"There was one young guy who's on a 15-hour-a-week contract doing 50 hours a week. But he's not got a clue."

Janitors and their union, Unison, have raised concerns that basic health and safety is being breached during

their strike. Parents should be demanding answers from councillors about this.

LIBRARY workers in Barnet, north London, struck last Saturday against library cuts.

The Unison union members are fighting 47 percent cuts to library posts at the Tory-run council.

Staffed library hours are proposed to be cut by 70 percent.

The Tories' proposals are set to come before the councillors to be approved at a meeting on 6 December.

## CABIN CREW

**BA must pay**

THOUSANDS OF British Airways cabin crew begin voting this Wednesday on strikes against poverty pay.

They have rejected a 2 percent pay offer following six years without pay rises.

A survey by their union, Unite, has revealed workers sleeping in their cars between shifts, doing second or third jobs or flying while ill because they can't afford to take sick leave.

Their basic pay is £12,000 a year, with average pay packets including allowances totalling just £16,000.

This comes from the "Mixed Fleet" imposed on cabin crew after Unite backed down from a fight in 2010. The union must build a big vote for strikes and call a serious programme of action this time.

## PENSIONS DISPUTES

## Nuclear strike hits back at the Establishment bosses

WORKERS AT the Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE) in Aldermaston and Burghfield in Berkshire struck on Monday against the planned closure of their pension scheme.

The 24-hour strike involved members of the Unite and Prospect unions.

Prospect national secretary David Luxton said there was "solid support".

Workers walked out in their hundreds for mass picket lines and then a protest march. The walkout was followed by action short of a strike from Tuesday.

Privatised AWE Plc—a consortium of Lockheed Martin, Jacobs Engineering and Serco—designs, manufactures and maintains Britain's nuclear weapons of mass destruction.

It should be focusing on

scrapping them instead.

But a victory for these workers could help turn the tide of pension scheme closures.

●THE RESULT of a strike ballot of around 1,900 Unite members employed by Gatwick Airport Ltd was expected on Wednesday.

It follows a 96 percent vote to strike over pensions by BMW Group workers in an indicative ballot of around 4,000 Unite members ending last Tuesday.

The turnout was around 75 percent. Unite says a full strike ballot will follow.

Both firms are closing pension schemes despite huge profits and shareholder dividends.

## CIVIL SERVICE

## EHRC workers walk out for your rights

CIVIL SERVICE workers at the Equality and Human Rights Commission struck on Wednesday of last week. The members of the PCS and

Unite unions are fighting bosses' plans to close offices in Birmingham, Leeds, Edinburgh and Newcastle, and slash jobs.

Last Wednesday's strike

saw 100 percent turnouts in Glasgow and London—and was set to be followed up by another strike on Wednesday this week.

## EDUCATION

## Students get set for protest

STUDENTS WERE set to join a march in London this Saturday on a national demo called by the NUS student's union and the UCU union.

The United for Education demonstration comes as colleges face cuts and closures and Tories push ahead with plans to raise the cap on tuition fees to £12,000 by 2026.

Mark, a student from Kingston University, said he planned to join the march "to be part of the movement against austerity."

Sophia, from North

London, said she hoped to bring around 20 students from her sixth form college to the protest.

"It's come to our attention that quite a few members of staff are being made redundant along with cuts to education," she told Socialist Worker.

"We're trying to show that the redundancies are because the Tories are cutting funding."

●Assemble 12 noon at Park Lane, central London. Nearest Tube stations: Marble Arch and Bond Street

## FURTHER EDUCATION

## Rotten deal nodded through

UCU UNION members in further education across England have voted to accept a 1 percent pay deal in an indicative e-ballot.

Some 66 percent of UCU members voted to accept the offer, while 33 percent voted to reject. The national union made no recommendation to members regarding how to vote.

The UCU Left argued that a no vote could have been won. The union's national conference

saw FE members support a pay claim of £1 extra an hour for all and gender pay equality.

But the union's Further Education Committee instead voted to hold a consultative ballot on the offer without recommendation.

A 1 percent deal does not address the 18 percent pay cut that workers have suffered in real terms over the last five years. The union should have escalated the fight.

## HIGHER EDUCATION

## Lecturers vote on wage offer

A CONSULTATIVE ballot of UCU members in higher education over pay ended on Friday of last week. The result had not been released as Socialist Worker went to press.

The offer is a 1.1 percent pay deal and a proposal for talks on gender pay equality

and casualisation.

The UCU Left campaigned for a no vote. UCU members held a series of strikes over pay earlier in the year.

The battle over gender pay inequality and casual contracts is not over, the offer addressed neither.

## SCHOOLS

## Teachers march for funding

The NUT union in London has called a march and rally on Thursday of this week against education funding cuts.

It is demanding investment in education. Tory cuts to school funding mean bigger classes and cuts to subjects.

They mean less money to support children with special educational needs.

Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn is set to speak, as is NUT general secretary Kevin Courtney.

●Assemble 5pm at Whitehall. March past parliament and the Department for Education. Rally at 6.30pm in the Emmanuel Centre, Marsham Street.

●The NUT is also holding rallies in the North West of England and the Midlands on Saturday 26 November. North West—assemble 12 noon, Sackville Gardens, Manchester M1 3HB. Midlands—assemble 11am, Vista Suite, Crowne Plaza Hotel, Holliday St, Birmingham B1 1HH

## NORTHERN IRELAND

## Action to hit 230 schools

TEACHERS IN the NASUWT union have called a strike in Northern Ireland on 30 November. The walkout will hit around 230 schools in Belfast and Newtownabbey.

Other schools will later take part in a programme of rolling strikes. Workers

are fighting a 0 percent pay offer, excessive workload and job insecurity.

NASUWT general secretary Chris Keates said workers were "left with no choice" due to the government's "blatant disregard" for their pay and conditions.



TRANSPORT

# Drivers in West Yorkshire strike against bus bosses

by DAVE RAMSDEN and MARTIN JONES

**OVER 850 Arriva bus drivers across West Yorkshire struck on Monday of this week in an ongoing dispute about pay and conditions, particularly driver hours.**

Drivers in the Unite union want an extra 20p an hour, backdated to January. They are angry that the company is so tight fisted when it is making big profits.

Arriva is one of Europe's biggest bus operators employing 55,000 people. It made £368 million profit in 2014/5.

The drivers are especially angry over working times that mean they can drive for up to five and a half hours without a break.

They say this is unsafe and dangerous, both for them and the passengers.

Instead they are demanding a maximum of five hours and eventually working towards four and a half hours, the same as lorry drivers.

## Healthy

There was a healthy and upbeat picket at the Heckmondwike garage in Kirklees.

Drivers on the picket line told a typical tale of unappreciative managers wanting more for less.

Managers and inspectors ran a scab skeleton service and allowed passengers to travel free. It showed the company was prepared to spend money in order to make a point.

Arriva subsidiary Yorkshire Tiger

## DRIVERS ON the picket line in Leeds

buses were running as normal.

The company operates partly by using non-unionised 'day off' Arriva drivers.

Recently Arriva sub-contracted its late night buses from Kirklees into Leeds to an opportunist non-union taxi firm.

But Arriva buses are back on the routes since the firm went bust and the owner disappeared with the money, leaving drivers unpaid.

The workers feel that bosses have been stringing them along for almost a year.

They called off an earlier planned strike for talks, but nothing came from them.

The company again asked for emergency talks before this strike, but would not make a serious offer.

There was a determined mood on the picket lines and the workers say they will go out again if Arriva does

not meet their demands.

**BUS DRIVERS in Weymouth were set to strike for 24 hours on Wednesday of this week in a continuation of their five-month long pay dispute.**

The walkout was set to begin at 4.30am.

The Unite union members overwhelmingly rejected First Hampshire & Dorset bosses' latest offer.



**>>>from page 20**  
in Leeds on Tuesday of last week. Speakers included Bfawu bakers' union president Ian Hodson and Labour councillor Alison Lowe from the Armley area. Armley was singled out in Labour MP Rachel Reeves' toxic speech against immigration.

SUTR activists also held a Love Music Hate Racism gig in Portsmouth on Sunday and a Stand Up For Refugees comedy night in Brixton, south London, on Monday.

SUTR groups held small protests against Donald Trump in Nottingham on Saturday and York on Sunday.

And around 400 people joined a demonstration called at just 24 hours' notice outside the US embassy in central London on Wednesday.

"Racism is on the rise, but so is anti-racism," said Zak Cochrane from SUTR. "We need to make our demonstration in London next March the biggest anti-racist protest in British history."

*Thanks to Dave Clinch, Jeannie Robinson and Simon Magorian*

## UCU UNION

## Left takes on leadership

JO MCNEILL has launched a campaign to become general secretary of the UCU union. Jo is president of the University of Liverpool UCU branch and a member of the UCU Left, which Socialist Worker supports.

Jo is standing against incumbent general secretary Sally Hunt.

Hunt has backed important campaigns such as Stand Up To Racism. She has often given speeches about the need to fight Tory attacks.

But many UCU members are frustrated that their union hasn't led more of a sustained fight to defend their jobs, pay, pensions and conditions.

Jo told Socialist Worker, "I'm standing because our union needs to change. There is a disconnect between the membership and the leadership."

"We can't tackle the difficult times ahead unless we can bring some unity to our movement."

For more details go to jo4ucugensec.wordpress.com votejo4gensec on Facebook and @jomcneillUCU on Twitter

## LONDON UNDERGROUND

## Tube Lines campaign wins pension scheme victory

**THE RMT union hailed a significant victory for Tube Lines workers on London Underground last week.**

The new agreement means Tube Lines workers, including future staff, will be able to access Transport for London's final salary pension scheme.

A four-year pay deal and a deal on Night Tube, on the same basis as one previously agreed with London Underground workers, were also accepted.

A hangover of New Labour's privatisation disaster meant the workers were excluded from pension agreements available to other London Underground workers.

The union said the deal "turns the tide on attacks on final salary pensions".

General secretary Mick Cash argued it was a vindication of "militant, industrial trade unionism, backed up by professional negotiations and campaigning".

Meanwhile, the results of RMT strike ballots of nearly 4,000 Tube workers on all stations and drivers on the Piccadilly line were set to be announced as Socialist Worker went to press.

The TSSA Tube workers' union announced it was also balloting station staff members from Friday.

The ballot is set to end on 29 November.

## RAIL WORKERS

## 'I don't know' about GTR says top transport official

AS GUARDS on Southern trains prepared for a 48-hour walkout over driver only operated (DOO) trains from next Tuesday, MPs questioned government officials over their role.

The transport select committee heard last week from Peter Wilkinson, the official in charge of franchising and passenger services at the Department for Transport (DfT).

Wilkinson was asked why proposals for extending DOO were not in consultation documents for Britain's biggest rail franchise, Govia Thameslink Railway (GTR). His reply was, "I don't know."

And when asked why he misled MPs about GTR's performance figures his "lack of knowledge" was the excuse. Wilkinson runs a firm

to "promote the formation of private sector companies operating in the UK rail sector".

And he wants "punch ups" with trade unions to help the Tories drive through attacks on workers and boost rail bosses' profits.

**A PETITION** has forced the Scottish government to say that it was "preparing the ground" for Scotrail to be publicly operated should operator Abellio not improve performance.

This is reason to celebrate. But the Scottish government may be replicating the outsourcing model common in local government with council-owned firms.

These are often used to drive down workers' pay and conditions.

## FUJITSU

## IT services workers plan shutdown

**IT SERVICES workers at Fujitsu in Manchester were set to strike on Wednesday and Thursday, the third round of strikes in a dispute over pay, pensions and job security.**

Workers are also angry that the firm has axed its work council. They are also defending Unite union rep Lynne Hodge's job as Fujitsu prepares for 1,800 job cuts.

Send cheques payable to "Manchester IT Workers Group" to Unite, Fujitsu MAN34, Central Park, Northampton Road, Manchester, M40 5BP. Donate to Account: 00980539, Sort Code: 30-91-48, and email support@ourunion.org.uk to tell strikers about your donation



# SCHOOL WORKERS WAGE A CLASS WAR

by RAYMIE KIERNAN

**TEACHING assistants (TAs) in Durham are waging an inspiring struggle that shows how to respond to council bosses' attacks.**

They ended a two-day strike last Wednesday as they stepped up their revolt against Labour-run Durham County Council's attack on their pay.

There were over 80 picket lines across Durham schools last week and over 1,000 protested at the county hall.

The council is going to sack over 2,000 TAs—and rehire them on up to 23 percent less pay.

The TAs are mainly Unison union members, but some are in the ATL. They have had to force their officials into action.

At last Saturday's Unite the Resistance conference (see page 6), TA Megan Charlton said that in the beginning unions "were sitting back and allowing this to happen".

"They were telling us there wasn't really anything we could do," she added. "But we said, 'We are the union and we're damn well going



FOR MANY teaching assistants it was their first ever strike

PICTURE: @TAS\_DURHAM

to make them fight."

At a standing room only rally inside Durham Miners Hall, the pressure they have brought to bear was clear. Unison regional secretary Clare Williams told the rally,

"This region is 100 percent with you. It will stay with you until the council come back to the table and stop this proposal to cut TAs' pay."

Unison leader Dave Prentis said, "Nobody will be forced

back to work through hardship. We will protect you, we will be with you—and we will win."

TAs should remember these words—and push for a programme of escalating

strikes every week from now until Christmas.

They know themselves that the officials will only respond to pressure.

The TAs also face Labour politicians and council chiefs

who are out of touch.

While they push through the attack, the heads of education and children's services enjoy salaries of up to £111,000 a year.

Lisa Turnbull from the TAs' committee spoke for the rank and file at the strike rally.

"What the council fail to realise is that there's an impact on us," she said.

"You're trying to run your life as normal. There's people in your family with health issues, or you're trying to bring up children, or trying to keep your money or keep your house. They don't see that, they see you as a number in a school."

"But, by god I wish they could see the numbers that are stood here today."

"We've found strength we never knew we had. We'll never be the same—but why go back when we can fight like we are?"

Send the TAs a solidarity message through the rank and file committee, request a speaker to address your union branch and find out how to donate to their fighting fund [spartacusannie@gmail.com](mailto:spartacusannie@gmail.com)

## Activists take action for migrants and refugees

STAND UP To Racism (SUTR) campaigners joined protests and rallies across Britain last week—from central London to small-town Devon.

Renfrewshire Council in Scotland rejected an application to build a new detention facility last Tuesday as 120 anti-racists protested outside (see page 9).

Over 150 people joined a vigil in Torrington, North Devon, on Wednesday of last week in support of refugees from the Calais "jungle" camp who are staying nearby.

Racist groups have threatened to march against the refugees.

Defying the racists' hate



Protesting against Trump in London

PICTURE: GUY SMALLMAN

mail, independent mayor Margaret Bannan held up the SUTR banner and addressed the crowd.

Eva Hamilton talked about coming to Britain as a refugee from Poland.

Some 50 people attended the second SUTR public meeting in Chesterfield last Thursday. Labour police and crime commissioner for Derbyshire Hardyal Dhindsa spoke about racist hate crimes.

The group is organising a Rock for Refugees gig on Sunday to raise money for refugee families who are coming to Derbyshire.

Up to 60 people also joined a SUTR meeting

>>>continued on page 19

## Stand Up To Racism Activists' Diary

### ● Saturday 26 November

Scottish TUC annual anti-racism march  
Assemble 10:30am, Glasgow Green,  
Greendyke St, Saltmarket, Glasgow G1 5DB

### ● Monday 5 December

No to Farage—Unite against Racism protest  
Opposing Ukip leader Nigel Farage's march  
on the Supreme Court. 12noon-3pm,  
Parliament Square, London SW1P 3

### ● Saturday 10 December

Winter appeal for refugees

### ● Friday 20 January

Protest at Donald Trump's election (see page 3)

### ● Saturday 18 March

National demonstrations in London and Glasgow

[standuptoracism.org.uk](http://standuptoracism.org.uk)